



Daily Report

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Daily Report

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Israel

Human Rights—A U.S. State Department report that accuses Israel of human rights violations is "exaggerated" and fails to take into consideration the overall context and the attempt of "extremists" to disrupt daily life in the territories, according to Israeli officials cited by Jerusalem radio.

The IDF is maintaining moral norms and preserving human rights, a spokesman contended, adding that such violations that do occur are dealt with "severely."

In related remarks carried by the radio, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu stressed that Israel is in "a state of war" and he claimed that since December 1987 the PLO has killed 66 Arabs who dissent from the PLO's "violence and intimidation."

Tabah Talks—Israel and Egypt reached agreement on "most points" under discussion in Tabah 7 February, despite an incident in which the Egyptian delegation left "in a huff" to protest remarks and behavior of members of the Israeli delegation, Jerusalem radio reported.

The "diplomatic tiff" was later resolved in contacts between Israeli and Egyptian officials.

For Egypt's part, MENA confirmed that agreement in principle was reached on several proposals pertaining to the entry of Israeli tourists to Tabah.

PLO-U.S. Dialogue

President Bush's resolution to continue the dialogue with the PLO is a "positive sign" and he has sent out "important signals" concerning the dialogue, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated in an interview with Paris radio's Arabic service.

He said the PLO must wait a little until changes within the U.S. Administration are finalized and the dialogue can then resume.

Contacts between the two sides are continuing through "various channels" in Tunisia, 'Arafat added.

Lebanon

Clash in South—Beirut radio reported that Amal Movement fighters clashed with a force of Israeli and South Lebanese Army soldiers who tried to advance into the southern town of Shaqra 7 February.

Lebanese "resistance" fighters fired rockets at an Israeli settlement across the border the following day, the radio said.

Amal-Hizballah—The clandestine Voice of the Oppressed, a pro-Hizballah radio station, disclosed that the Hizballah-Amal joint coordination committee has approved a timetable for implementing the measures stipulated in the Damascus peace agreement.

The schedule starts 9 February with the withdrawal of Hizballah fighters from Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar; subsequent steps will include the release of prisoners and closure of Hizballah and Amal military offices in the southern suburb of Beirut.

Arab Committee—A senior Kuwaiti official cited by London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT expressed optimism about prospects for a comprehensive Lebanese accord in light of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's "tacit blessing and profound support" for the steps taken by the Arab committee on Lebanon.

A Damascus radio commentary said the Iraqi regime and the Lebanese "partitionists" have been disappointed with the results of the committee's deliberations, which were "not to their liking."

Although the Iraqi regime "deluded itself" into believing that the committee could be used to exert pressure on Syria, the committee soon ascertained that the Lebanese crisis does not lie in Syria's role and the Kuwaiti chairman of the committee reacted "firmly and forcefully" against the slander campaigns launched against Syria.

Sudan

A Khartoum paper cited by SUNA disclosed that the chairman and members of the State Council have agreed to resign, noting that this will allow the Council to be reshuffled in light of the new political situation following the Democratic Unionist Party's withdrawal from the government.

The report added that the new State Council will be chaired by a member of the Ummah Party and will include two members of the Islamic National Front.

In another development, the government asked parliament to renew the state of emergency for another 6 months, SUNA noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Kuwaiti-Iraqi Talks—Commenting on the Kuwaiti crown prince's talks in Baghdad, Kuwait's ARAB TIMES stated that this is the appropriate time and place to settle outstanding issues.

The demarcation of borders between the two countries will silence all those who "fish in troubled waters," the paper added.

The crown prince held further talks with Iraqi officials 7 February, according to INA and Baghdad radio.

Algerian-Moroccan Talks—Talks between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II focused on bilateral relations and the different areas in which "important progress can be made," APS reported.

MAP noted that Bendjedid and the king traveled from Fes to Ifrane amidst the acclamation of "tens of thousands" of Moroccans who turned out to greet their "illustrious guest" and hail the Moroccan-Algerian "reunion."

Iran

Amnesty for Political Prisoners—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini agreed to an amnesty for "all members of political parties held in Iranian jails," IRNA reported.

Montazeri Criticisms—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri claimed that "extremism, factionalism, and unprofessionalism" were among factors to blame for the failure to achieve some of the revolution's aims, IRNA reported, citing an interview published in ABRAR daily.

He maintained that the young generation are "justified" in seeing a "gap between what they have gained and what they were promised."

However, he said the nation will overcome its difficulties if it returns to Islamic unity and if "we do not monopolize the revolution in the hands of one group."

Velayati Visit to London—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with his British counterpart Sir Geoffrey Howe in London 7 February during a stopover visit, IRNA reported.

According to Tehran radio, the two sides discussed developments in Afghanistan and Lebanon, bilateral trade, and the release of all hostages in Lebanon including the Iranian hostages.

French Denial of Hostage Deal—In an interview broadcast by Paris radio, a former French official denied that the Chirac administration gave Iran a pledge to secure the release of a Lebanese accused of attempting to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar in exchange for three French hostages in Lebanon.

He said former Interior Minister Charles Pasqua promised only that he "might possibly" look into Anis Naccache's release if "all the hostages" were released.

Velayati had earlier called on France to "fulfill" its part of a deal to release Naccache, AFP noted.

In another development, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI criticized France for "inciting" and "using" Iranian "counterrevolutionaries" based in France in its relations with Iran, IRNA reported.

The paper referred to an attack on the Iranair office in Paris by a "terrorist" group while Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was visiting Tehran and said it was not in France's interest to use such "disgraceful political and propaganda games."

Afghanistan

Withdrawal/Security Situation—Soviet troops have "completely" left Kabul with the exception of a subunit to guard Kabul Airport, TASS reported.

The Soviet air base in Bagram, 80 km from Kabul, has been handed over to the Afghans and withdrawal from the air base in Shinand has begun.

Recent attacks by the "irreconcilables" in several areas were "heavily rebuffed," the agency added, and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's units south of Salang are now "incapable" of large-scale military action.

However, the report noted that 430 armed opposition units estimated at 12,000 men are concentrated along the entire line of the Soviet withdrawal in the east and 178 groups totaling more than 5,000 men are deployed in the western sector.

At a news conference in Moscow reported by TASS, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov estimated that some 30,000 "rebels" are concentrated along the main highways in order to blockade Kabul and the provincial centers, TASS reported.

The Afghan Armed Forces Supreme Command warned the armed groups operating along the Salang highway to stop looting convoys of food aid and primary goods or face "strong measures" in retaliation, Kabul radio reported.

The radio also stated that Afghan Government troops killed more than 150 "extremists" in Nangarhar and other provinces in recent military operations.

Martial Law Denial—An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman denied that martial law is in force in Kabul, XINHUA reported.

In an "exclusive interview" with the agency, he said reporters "mistook" a 5 February military march by PDPA members for martial law enforcement.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Committee on Palestine Meets LD0702131889 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Tunis 2 Feb 89, TAP—The seven-man Arab committee for supporting the Palestinian uprising called on the international community today to shoulder its responsibilities toward the Palestinian people and to intervene immediately to end the appalling massacre of them. The massacre is a result of the grave escalation of Israel's iron fist policy, which caused the number of victims among the inhabitants of the occupied territories to escalate since the blessed uprising began 14 months ago.

At a news conference yesterday afternoon in Tunis, Dr Muhammad al-Farra, assistant secretary of the Arab League in charge of Palestinian affairs, said that the seven-man committee—which met yesterday at the level of the permanent representatives of the member countries—called on the international community to supply the necessary protection for the Palestinian people and to exert every effort to end the Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

The assistant secretary general of the Arab League criticized the UN Security Council's silence over the escalation of Israeli oppressive policies against the Palestinians, as the Security Council has not yet adopted any stand on this escalation.

However, he pointed out that the committee, as part of its activities on the international level to support the uprising and confront Israeli arrogance, intends in the next few days to tour the capitals of the permanent members of the UN Security Council and a number of European, African and Latin American countries, and to contact the OAU and Nonaligned Movement.

According to an Arab diplomatic source, it is probable that this move by the committee will be at the ministerial level, will include all its members, including Palestine, and will occur in the second half of this month. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on European Role in Peace Process LD0702160989 Paris International Service in Arabic 1417 Gmt 7 Feb 89

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified correspondent in Tunis on 6 February—recorded]

[Text] ['Arafat] No doubt we believe Europe has an effective role in the peace process in the Middle East. It is no coincidence that the Arab summit resolutions adopted at the Algiers, Amman, Fes, and Casablanca summits stressed the importance of an international

conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council, Britain and France—in addition to the influence of Europe on the international level and in the Middle East.

After all, it has distinguished relations with all sides involved in the conflict in the region, as well as relations with the socialist bloc, China, and Japan, and influence on U.S. public opinion. Equally it is no coincidence that the European Common Market set up a tripartite committee, with which I recently met in Madrid, consisting of the foreign ministers of France, Spain, and Greece. All this indicates the significance and importance of the European role.

True, there is a Zionist Israeli attempt to limit Europe's role. This is quite clear in the statements made by Shamir, Arens, and other Israeli officials. It is an attempt to block efforts for convening an international conference, on which agreement has been reached that it should be held under UN auspices and with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Undoubtedly it is true that there is a problem in Europe. Europe moves at the speed of fleets; a fleet always moves with the speed of its slowest units; a fleet does not move in accordance with its fastest units, a fleet always moves with the speed of its slowest units, that is, with the speed of the most complicated unit.

This, of course, means that I should adjust myself to all of the European stances so together they may reach a common stance. However, it also means I should be hopeful that Europe will find a solution so it can go forward with confidence to take its real role in the peace process in the Middle East.

[Correspondent] Have the European leaders responded favorably to your call to activate the preparatory committee of an international conference, Abu 'Ammar?

['Arafat] Yes, there have even been some attempts to do that—European attempts, a Soviet attempt, Palestinian attempts, and attempts made by some nonaligned countries. One of the main points which I examined with Perez de Cuellar's envoy when I met with him recently in Tunis was on the preparatory committee, particularly whether there is any delay in convening an international conference.

[Correspondent] There has been a lot of talk recently on the possibility of a meeting between you and French President Francois Mitterrand: Will the meeting take place in France very soon and has France any particular role to play, in your opinion?

['Arafat] Well, I would like to say the following. And I say it with ease and composure: We, in the Palestinian revolution, must proudly acknowledge the aid that

France has twice extended: once during the pullout of the Palestinian forces from Beirut and the other time during their withdrawal from Tripoli.

President Mitterrand made a clear decision on such aid. There have been some other important steps which France recently took and on which President Mitterrand also had the last word, such as when he raised the level of the Palestinian representation to the level of the general delegation of Palestine.

Such a decision is significant. For example, the GDR was like this for a long time, China was like this for many years, and North Korea was also in this situation for a long time. We hope at least that the other, still hesitant European countries will follow the French lead. As far as the meeting with President Mitterrand is concerned, of course I am looking forward to it with pride. However, it is entirely up to President Mitterrand to decide upon such a matter. [Correspondent] So far, no West European country, with the exception of Austria, has recognized the Palestinian state. Have you brought up this point in particular during your meeting with West European officials?

[Arafat] Do not forget that, since the PNC session [in Algeria, during which the Palestinian state was proclaimed] I have two capacities. I hold the position of PLO chairman and at the same time the PLO Executive Committee, according to the PNC resolution, is entrusted temporarily with the work of the transitional government of the Palestinian state. Therefore they met me in both my capacities. Add to this the fact there is a search for and an effort toward continuing, together with a number of our friends in Europe, to consolidate this Palestinian stance within the EEC.

[Correspondent] The first meeting between a PLO delegation and a U.S. delegation has already taken place. When will this U.S.-Palestinian dialogue be resumed and have you so far sensed any change in the U.S. position toward resolving the Palestinian issue?

[Arafat] I must say that President Bush's resolution to continue the dialogue is, in itself, a positive sign, as he said. He also sent out important signals concerning this dialogue. Naturally, we must take into consideration that the U.S. Administration has not yet completed its own plans—plans related to the Middle East.

Therefore we must wait a little until these changes within U.S. Administration are finalized and then we can resume dialogue with the new administration. We have also to take into consideration that contacts at the level of the two ambassadors, the Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia and the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, are continuing through various channels.

[Correspondent] Abu 'Ammar, what are the factors on which you rely for holding an international peace conference while Israel and the United States oppose this formula?

[Arafat] In reply to this I say that the United States is committed, according to an agreement between the two superpowers both in Moscow and Washington, to accept the principle of an international peace conference on the Middle East. Add to this that the agreement sponsored by the Swedish Government included a U.S. commitment to holding an international conference.

[Correspondent] What about the Soviet Union? Does it push for and do you feel it is really pushing for the holding of an international peace conference?

[Arafat] The Soviet Union! Definitely. The Soviet Union adopted the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East from the beginning. It pushed in this direction at the summit meeting between President Gorbachev and President Reagan and the socialist bloc also issued a number of statements on this. The Soviet talks at Arab and international forums were also in this direction.

I would like also to point out that the Soviet-French statement issued by President Mitterrand and President Gorbachev clearly referred to the importance of holding an international conference and they are the ones who brought up the idea of a preparatory committee. The idea stemmed from the meeting between President Mitterrand and Gorbachev.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu 'Ammar, one last question: Recently there has been a lot of talk about the possibility of forming a provisional Palestinian government. Is there any move toward setting up a provisional government? What are the positive aspects of such a government?

[Arafat] Here it is inevitable that I should point out quite significantly and clearly that the Palestine National Council has temporarily given the PLO Executive Committee the right to exercise the functions of this provisional government. At meetings of the Palestinian leadership we studied the formation of this government in all its aspects—technical, political, administrative, and practical. Naturally the decision to set up this government cannot be a Palestinian decision alone, as it is inevitable that we should consult our friends and brothers on this matter.

'Arafat Adviser on European Initiative, Dialogue
JN0702180989 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
6 Feb 89 p 11

[Interview with Dr Nabil Sha'ath, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and chairman of the PNC Political Committee, by Mahmud Bakri in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Bakri] In light of the recent Palestinian-European contacts, do you expect Europe to present a new peace initiative in the region?

[Sha'th] There are in fact the features of a European initiative that is very close to the Palestinian initiative. The most prominent points in this initiative are the following:

The work to form a preparatory committee to convene an international conference.

The move toward an effective international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The readiness to give definite European guarantees to the independent Palestinian state and Israel.

The readiness to support the PLO so it may play its role as an independent Palestinian state by supporting it economically and politically.

[Bakri] In light of the American-Palestinian dialogue, do you think the Bush administration is working earnestly to achieve peace in the region?

[Sha'th] The enemy does not seek to achieve peace. And I call America an enemy because it is not a neutral party, but the main supporter of the enemy. And because it is a superpower in addition to the USSR, we must force it to recognize our rights as well as to extract our rights through all possible means.

I do not deal with America in light of its intentions. If there were a state of Palestinian relaxation or if there were no uprising, America would not embark on any step. And if there were no international understanding through Gorbachev's new endeavor to create an international detente and solutions to the regional problems, the Americans would not show any interest in any approach. And Bush cannot be different from the others.

[Bakri] What role can the Arab world play to put pressure on international forces to expedite achieving peace?

[Sha'th] The international circumstances could be appropriate as our hot issue was placed on the table of relations between the two superpowers and was imposed on them through its intrinsic power. What is required here is a strong Arab stand. It is correct that the Arab stand is now better than before but it is not so strong to constitute a real pressing force to impose a solution on America.

[Bakri] When will the next round of American-Palestinian dialogue take place?

[Sha'th] The American-Palestinian dialogue is just like the American-Vietnamese and American-Chinese dialogues. The American-Chinese dialogue lasted 14 years and the American-Vietnamese dialogue continued for 5 years. But in the end the American ambassador to Vietnam escaped by a helicopter from above the roof of the American Embassy before the dialogue ended.

The dialogue might take a long or short time. And this depends on the effort we exert throughout the dialogue. The uprising is now escalating, military confrontations take place in Lebanon every now and then, and the political and diplomatic work is moving continuously. All this would put pressure on the dialogue. And the moment America sees there is not enough pressure on the dialogue it will renege on it.

The American and Israeli media recently launched a campaign of lies and fabrications to obstruct the dialogue. They said, for example, that the PLO has secrets and information on the Pan Am blast that would lead to the exposure of the perpetrators and that Yasir 'Arafat said if he seizes the perpetrators he will present them.

In fact what the PLO told the Americans is that our information is that the Mosad carried out the operation. But the stories that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] exposed Palestinian or Arab terrorists and that he will execute them, as well as the American media protests that you cannot execute anyone without a trial, are all lies.

Also the story of Ilyas Frayj is another example. They said Abu 'Ammar threatened to kill him because he expressed his desire to conclude a truce on the uprising. All that Abu 'Ammar said is that he cannot stop the uprising. And if I try to stop it my guard will kill me, Abu 'Ammar said. Therefore, everything that was said was a lie.

[Bakri] It has been reiterated recently that Abu 'Ammar will request an entry visa to visit the United States at the invitation of an organization in the American capital. What is the truth about this?

[Sha'th] Abu 'Ammar will not go to the United States. He will not request an entry visa to the United States nor will he put himself in a position whereby he will ask for a visa to attend a conference in Washington.

He who says that Abu 'Ammar wants to visit Washington aims at casting doubts about whether the Americans will or will not grant him a visa. The final objective is like the previous lies—that is, to justify the stoppage of the dialogue by reiterating that Abu 'Ammar is a terrorist and that he threatened Ilyas Frayj. I believe if there is insufficient pressure they will stop the dialogue in light of these lies only.

[Bakri] When will the provisional government be declared?

[Sha'th] The studies on the government will end within a month. And the government will be declared within 2 months. However, all this depends on what will be accomplished within this month.

[Bakri] It has been reiterated that the government will include among its members some Jewish elements. Is this correct?

[Sha'th] This is incorrect.

PNC Official on Attempts To Halt U.S. Dialogue
NC0702125189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—PNC Secretary Muhammad Subayh has denounced Israel's attempts to halt the PLO-U.S. dialogue on pretexts connected with the operation carried out by Palestinian fighters against military targets in the Lebanese south last Saturday night.

Subayh told MENA that Israel's attempts to halt the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and the request which it submitted in this regard to the U.S. State Department yesterday are "ill-conceived, naive, and unconvincing to public opinion." Subayh asserted the PLO is faithful to the commitments it made at the recent PNC meeting in Algiers and at the UN General Assembly meetings in Geneva.

The Palestinian official said the Israeli Government is the party which engages in terrorism and that it is politically naive to make accusations against others and to try to eschew the chances which an international peace conference would present for a true and lasting peace for all parties.

Subayh recalled that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens met yesterday with a group of American Jews and sought to incite them to pressure the administration of U.S. President George Bush into halting the dialogue with the PLO.

Arens, according to Subayh, claimed the PLO broke promises which it made in response to U.S. conditions when it launched the recent fedayeen operation in the Lebanese south.

Subayh said: Instead of inciting U.S. citizens against their own country and meddling in U.S. internal affairs, Arens should have urged the Israeli Government to respond to peace overtures and to join the march for peace which the PLO has initiated.

The Palestinian official noted that the Israeli Government rejects all peace initiatives, continues its policies of aggression and of occupying other people's land through the use of armed force, and engages in daily murder, terror, brutality, and barbarism against the Palestinian uprising.

As for the recent initiative by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir concerning self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza, Subayh said Shamir is trying to change world public opinion, which is overwhelmingly supportive of the Palestinians, by putting forward ideas which are "vague, incomplete, and distorted."

The PNC secretary said such Israeli attempts will not succeed because they coincide with Israel's continued occupation of other people's land through the use of force and with its failure to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, which have been recognized by international organizations and world public opinion.

Subayh stressed that the Palestinian people reject Shamir's ideas, adding that the Israeli Government will one day find itself forced to meet the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people and to respond to Arab and Palestinian peace initiatives.

The Palestinian official said Israel will find itself isolated if it persists in carrying out its repressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and if it continues to ignore world public opinion which demands peace in this region.

PLO Delegation To Visit Syria in 'Few Weeks'
JN0702192189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1900 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] In Damascus, the spokesman for the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has affirmed that a PLO delegation will arrive in Damascus in the next few weeks to prepare for a visit that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will pay to Syria.

The spokesman said the Palestinian delegation will comprise four PLO Executive Committee members, including Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and Abu 'Ali Mustafa.

PLO Spokesman on South Lebanon Operation
JN0702181489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman has stated that the recent infiltration operation by a Palestinian armed unit in the occupied border strip in southern Lebanon represents a resistance operation and an operation of self-defense against the Israeli occupation of this part of Lebanon. He added that this operation has nothing to do with terrorism as the Israelis claim.

He said: We view the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon as posing a direct threat to the Palestinian and Lebanese citizens who have the right to resist with all means an Israeli aggression which has been going on since the invasion of Lebanon in 1982. He affirmed that resisting occupation is a right that is acknowledged by international conventions and principles.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Price Monitoring Group To Meet 29 Mar
LD0702160389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1410 GMT
7 Feb 89

[By Naceur M'tir]

[Text] Vienna, Feb 7 (KUNA)—The eight members at the OPEC strategic committee, responsible for monitoring prices, will meet March 29 in Vienna to review the situation at the international oil market, since reaching the agreement on the production ceiling, quotas, and the floor price last Nov 28, an informed source told KUNA here Tuesday.

The committee, entrusted by the latest ministerial conference to monitor prices (on) the global market, comprises oil and energy ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

The source predicted a joint meeting will take place between OPEC members and oil producers outside the organisation on the sidelines of the OPEC strategic committee meeting. Such a proposed meeting will take place if non-OPEC members reach an agreement with OPEC states on realising cooperation between the two sides, aimed at stabilizing prices on the market.

He affirmed that the organisation has always sacrificed to achieve prices stability, which benefitted producers as well as consumers.

The source also predicted that the eight ministers would look into the proposal of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on convening an OPEC summit.

However, he noted that this topic will be included in the agenda of the next ordinary ministerial conference, due to be held June 5 in the Austrian capital.

The president, Andres Perez, had proposed an OPEC summit, during a tour of some member states, which included Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iran and Iraq, to review the organisation's future oil policy and means of stabilizing prices.

A number of countries have agreed in principle to the summit provided that the time and place will be fixed at the next ministerial meeting.

OPEC had held a joint meeting with independent oil producers in London last month. The two sides agreed to continue their cooperation on various oil-related issues.

Egypt

Tabah Negotiations on Tourism, Hotel Continue

'Crisis' in Talks Denied

NC0702193289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—This evening, a responsible source in the Foreign Ministry denied reports by certain news agencies that said there was a crisis in the Tabah talks between the Egyptian and Israeli delegations regarding tourists' visits to the area which led, as these news agencies alleged, to the cessation of the talks.

The source said that the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks returned to Cairo this evening after the talks concluded and submitted a report on what was achieved to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Prime Minister on Negotiations

NC0702135289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1316 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has asserted that the Israeli withdrawal from Tabah and this area's return to Egyptian sovereignty is no longer a subject for debate. He added that the current Egyptian-Israeli talks deal only with the issue of the Israeli hotel in Tabah and other unresolved matters.

The prime minister, who was commenting on the People's Assembly's discussion of the government's policy statement, remarked that the ruling of the International Arbitration Tribunal has settled the Tabah issue conclusively from a legal point of view. He noted that the border markers have been placed in accordance with the Egyptian viewpoint, particularly with regard to No 91, the major marker in Tabah.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi pointed out that the discussions between Egypt and Israel had become complicated at one time, but noted that agreement had been reached in the past few days on returning to the negotiating table. He explained that the Egyptian-Israeli technical committees, which are holding meetings now, will complete their work within a few days.

Agreement on Israeli Tourists

NC0702145189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian delegation which has been conducting negotiations with Israel on the issue of allowing Israeli tourists access to the Tabah area is due to return to Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday.

MENA has learned that agreement has been reached in principle on several proposals pertaining to the entry of Israeli tourists to the area.

The agency has also learned that Ambassador Hasan 'Isa, director of the Israel desk at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and chairman of the Egyptian delegation to the talks, will submit to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, a detailed report on the results of the latest talks prior to the final approval of the submitted proposals.

Fatah's Salah Khalaf Begins Visit to Cairo

NC0702181989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Cairo from Jeddah this evening for a 2-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, Salah Khalaf stated that his visit to Egypt is part of the continuing consultation with Egyptian Government officials. He said that he will discuss with them all issues of interest to the Arab nation and developments and political activity pertaining to the Palestinian issue.

Answering a question on a statement by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin saying that the number injured in the Palestinian uprising is only 7,000, Abu Iyad said that this figure is less than the truth. He pointed out that more than 30,000 Palestinians have gone to the hospital during the uprising. Abu Iyad stressed that the uprising will continue despite the increased dead and injured.

Responding to a question on the Israeli request to the U.S. Government to abolish the dialogue with the PLO on the grounds that it is a terrorist organization, Abu Iyad said that the world does not now consider the PLO to be such. He noted, however, that this Israeli position is not something new. He asserted that Israel opposes any dialogue with the Palestinians, but it cannot influence the U.S. decision to hold one with the PLO.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Sa'id Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo, received the Palestinian guest at the airport.

Sidqi on Quadripartite Economic Grouping

NC0502160089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT
5 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has affirmed that the establishment of the Arab quadripartite grouping comprising Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the YAR will not supersede the role of the higher joint committee between Egypt and each of these states.

In a statement here today, Dr Sidqi pointed out that the aim of this grouping is to strengthen cooperation among its member states and between these states and any Arab country that may wish to join it in the future. He added

that a meeting involving the four states' heads of government is scheduled to be held in Amman on 14 February to prepare the draft structure of the union [as received] and define its tasks and objectives.

The results of the meeting will be presented to the summit meeting expected to be attended by President Mubarak, King Husayn, President Saddam Husayn, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Baghdad.

Dr Sidqi stated that Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will visit Cairo in the 1st week of March. He will lead his country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Sudanese Higher Joint Committee, which will be held in Cairo within the framework of the Brotherhood Charter between the two countries.

He added he will visit Morocco in March at the head of Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Moroccan Higher Joint Committee to be held in Rabat. The Moroccan delegation will be led by Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki, he added.

Grouping Open to Arab States

NC0702143789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has stated that the quadripartite grouping between Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the YAR is basically an "economic grouping" and does not represent an axis directed against anyone. He declared that the grouping is open to all Arab states to join.

The prime minister, who was commenting today on the People's Assembly's discussion of the government policy statement, said that the conclusion of any agreements or the signing of any accords between Egypt and the other three countries concerned will be submitted to the People's Assembly.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi explained that the idea of establishing this grouping grew from the activity of the bilateral higher joint committees which link the four countries. A proposal had been advanced to expand the scope of economic cooperation among these countries, he said.

Parliament Approves Government Policy Statement
NC0702160589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The People's Assembly has expressed its confidence in and support for Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi's government. It has approved the government's policy statement by a majority of votes following today's session discussing the statement.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi commented on the discussions by saying that the report submitted by the committee responding to the government's policy statement was

comprehensive and included numerous recommendations. The prime minister affirmed that the government will use these recommendations to guide its future work.

He added that the regime's ruling philosophy, which the government implements, is designed to establish a balance among three things—political democracy, comprehensive economic development, and social justice. The prime minister emphasized that a balance will be achieved among these three things.

Sidqi Comments on Emergency Law, Democracy
NC0702153389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has asserted that the government will be the first to ask the People's Assembly to terminate the emergency law when the circumstances which led to its imposition no longer exist.

The prime minister, who was commenting today on the People's Assembly debates over the government's policy statement, continued: On behalf of the government I hope that this law will be terminated. But the government cannot relinquish its responsibilities under the difficult circumstances and vicious onslaughts which are exposing society to collapse and disruption.

The prime minister emphasized that this law, which was enacted by the people's assembly and extended until 1991 with its approval, had been imposed to confront certain circumstances which threatened to bring down the mainstays of society.

In his comments to the People's Assembly, the prime minister said that democracy is the mainstay of the regime in Egypt. It is also a safeguard and the basis of stability, development, and social justice. He maintained that certain excesses may happen here and there under democracy. But we work to let democracy interact and rectify itself.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi pointed out that the government is cooperating with the legislative authority on three issues: political democracy, comprehensive economic development, and social justice. He added: We endeavor to establish a balance among these issues without emphasizing one at the expense of the other. [passage omitted]

7 Feb Events at Bar Association Described

Security Forces 'Prevent Clash'
NC0702195489 Cairo MENA in English 1855 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb 7 (MENA)—Security forces prevented here today a clash between some opponents of the Bar Association Board and a number of the board members,

who were inside the Bar Association premises. Security forces dispersed the opponent lawyers, who tried to break into the building of the bar association.

6 People Injured

NC0702200389 Cairo MENA in English 1942 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 7 (MENA)—The public prosecution started investigations into a police report about this midday's Bar Association events, which resulted in wounding six persons, including a police major, a police adjutant and four lawyers.

The situation has been stabilizing completely inside and outside the Bar Association premises.

Demonstrations Over Bread Prices in Al-Minya

JN0702185789 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
6 Feb 89 p 1

[By Fikriyah Ahmad]

[Text] The state security intelligence service has launched a new arrest campaign in the Al-Minya and Bani Suwayf Governorates due to the recent demonstrations that have erupted in both places. The demonstrations renewed 2 days ago to protest raising the price of the Fino loaf [as published].

Worshippers also left the mosques in Al-Minya and roamed in the Ard al-Mawlid area, near the security directorate, and around the Al-Rahmah mosque and some other mosques.

Demonstrations also erupted in the streets of the city of Bani Suwayf, and demonstrators chanted antigovernment slogans, demanded the release of the youths who have been recently arrested, and condemned the policy of raising prices. Security forces interfered to arrest university students, who refused to attend lectures last week.

The security forces also confronted the demonstrators and chased them in the streets of the two governorates. Scores of demonstrators were arrested. A large number managed to escape and hide in nearby villages and districts, a state of tension prevailed in the two governorates, and central security forces deployed and imposed a stringent guard around mosques and police buildings. Tension still prevails in the Bani Suwayf Governorate.

Daily Cited on Israeli 'Scheme' Against Iraq

NC0802081089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT
8 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes that several signs indicate the possibility of a sudden Israeli offensive against certain targets in the Arab arena to distract attention from its own problems and to end its psychological isolation.

In this regard, the paper points to information available to Iraqi sources which indicate that Iraq might be the target of this Israeli scheme because of the former's possession of chemical and biological weapons.

In its editorial today, the paper says that available evidence indeed calls for caution against such an offensive. Iraq's victory in its long war with Iran came as a shock to certain people, particularly Israel, which had wagered on Iraq's defeat and the collapse of Arab steadfastness, the paper says.

Hence, secret and public campaigns were launched to draw a false picture of the Iraqi victory by accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons and implying the intention to launch an attack against it.

During the U.S.-Libyan crisis, the paper says, there were insinuations that the investigation, which reportedly sought to verify the existence of a chemical weapons factory in Libya, was based on the similarity between this factory and Iraqi installations. These insinuations became part of the continuous campaign to justify an attack against Iraq.

In conclusion, the paper appeals to all Arabs to be vigilant for such a possibility and to be ready to confront it with further Arab solidarity and coordination.

Morocco

Hassan II, Bendjedid Hold 'Political' Talks

LD0702121389 Algiers APS in English 1028 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Ifrane, 7/2/89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid who arrived here yesterday started in the evening political talks with King Hassan II.

During these talks, the two heads of state explored the different fields for which important progress can be made.

These talks were also centered on prospects of bilateral cooperation.

Even if no official information was given about the program of the first day of the official visit of President Chadli Bendjedid, the local press issued some information about the agenda and the results the Moroccan side is expecting from this visit.

In this context, the secretary general of the "Party of Progress and Socialism", 'Ali Yata, said that the talks will undoubtedly center on "the question of Western Sahara, the edification of the Arab Maghreb and the solidarity with the Palestinian people and their uprising."

Concerning Western Sahara, 'Ali Yata indicated that the referendum would be organized by the end of this year "or before".

As concerns bilateral relations, 'Ali Yata said the two heads of state and their respective delegations will deal with a number of questions related to commercial and cultural exchanges, economic cooperation, particularly in the field of gas and the common exploitation of mines of Gara Djebilet.

Yata added that the question of the ratification by Morocco of the 1972 border convention will also be in the agenda. Concerning the edification of a great Arab Maghreb, 'Ali Yata said the two sides will work for the rapprochement of their points of view to assure the success to this enterprise. "This does not mean an orientation toward a Moroccan-Algerian axis".

On his turn, the mouthpiece of the "Istiqlal" Party "L'OPINION" pointed out that the talks will enable the creation of an Algerian-Moroccan joint company, in charge of carrying out the project of the creation of a gas pipeline between Algeria and Western Europe through Morocco. This company will also enable the supply of the Algerian natural gas to Morocco.

The evolution of the question of Western Sahara will "naturally be dealt with" by King Hassan-II and President Chadli Bendjedid, "L'OPINION" added.

Moreover, "AL-'ALAM" Arabic language mouthpiece of "Istiqlal", indicated that talks between King Hassan-II and President Chadli Bendjedid will give a new impulse to bilateral cooperation in the field of gas, the launching of economic projects in border areas, the technical education, the scientific research and the development of commercial and human exchanges through the development of rail transports between the two countries.

Algerian Delegation Named

LD0702141989 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Ifrane (Morocco), Feb. 7. (MAP)—King Hassan II received, Monday [6 February] evening at the Royal Palace in Ifrane (northern Morocco), visiting Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The sovereign then offered a dinner banquet in honor of his illustrious guest.

President Bendjedid had arrived in Fes early Monday afternoon. He was greeted upon arrival at the Fes-Saïss airport by King Hassan.

The two Maghreban heads of state then headed for Ifrane amidst the acclamations of tens of thousands of Moroccans who went out to greet the Kingdom's illustrious guest and hail the Moroccan-Algerian reunion and the edification of the Grand Maghreb.

The delegation accompanying President Bendjedid comprises Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaïeh, Director of the Presidential Office General Larbi Belkheir, Minister of the Interior and of Environment Boubaker Belcaïd, Minister of Transports El-Hadj Khediri, Minister of

Energy and Petrochemical Industries Sadek Boucena, Minister of Commerce Mourad Medelci, Secretary General of the Ministry of National Defense General Mustafa Cheloufi, Delegate-General to Security General Mohamed Betchine, Executive Secretary of the Central Committee of the Ruling National Liberation Front in Charge of Training and Culture Mohamed Saidi, Algerian Ambassador to Morocco Mohamed Sahnun and several other high ranking officials.

Joint Commission Envisaged

LD0702143189 Algiers APS in English 1334 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Fes, 7/2/89 (APS)—The Algerian-Moroccan joint commission would meet "in the coming days", "AL MAGHRIB", central organ in French language of the "National Gathering of Independents" (RNI), led by Ahmed Osman, president of the Moroccan parliament, indicated on Monday without quoting sources.

According to "AL MAGHRIB", this meeting will aim at "carrying out on the field" the political will of King Hassan-II and the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to go further in the common destiny of the two brother peoples".

Nevertheless "AL MAGHRIB" does not precise if this meeting would be held following the official visit of President Chadli Bendjedid or following the holding of the second Maghrebin summit in Marrakech.

Mediation for U.S.-Libya Dialogue 'Successful'

LD0702141189 Rabat MAP in English 1339 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 7. (GNA-MAP)—Morocco has conducted successful mediation efforts between Libya and the United States of America to pave the way for an early Libyan-U.S. dialogue to normalise their relations, AL-ITTihad newspaper reported recently.

The Abu Dhabi-based daily, quoting Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat said that during its contacts with Washington, Morocco received assurance that the United States would not launch a military action against Libya and that discords between them will be solved through direct dialogue.

Sudan

Council of State Members Agree To Resign

EA0702190689 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Feb (SUNA)—The chairman and members of the Council of the State have agreed to submit their resignation to the Constituent Assembly-Parliament, the daily AL-SUDANI reported today.

The five-man ruling Council of the State led by Ahmad al-Mirghani, a Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, figure, have to be reshuffled to cope with the new political situation following the withdrawal of the DUP from the government and forming a new coalition between the Ummah and the Islamic National Front.

The new chairman of the Council of the State will be from the Ummah Party while the Islamic National Front will have two seats, the paper said, adding that a southerner will complete the number, with another Ummah Party figure, to five.

Al-Mahdi Names New Assembly Chairman
EA0502180889 Omdurman National Unity Radio
in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi has bestowed the chairmanship of the Constituent Assembly on Mr Jabir Allah Khamsin after Mr Bakri Ahmad Adil declined to take the post, explaining to the prime minister that this post requires judicial qualifications and that he would like to devote himself to politics. On the other hand, it has been decided to elect Mr (al-Hurraykah 'Izz al-Din) to the post of deputy chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

Al-Turabi on New Government, Security in South
NC0302131489 Cairo MENA in English 1300 GMT
3 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, Feb 3 (MENA)—Hasan al-Turabi, Sudanese deputy premier and foreign minister, today said that the Sudanese Government is urged to bring about security in the south of the Sudan so that the Sudanese foreign policy independence can be guaranteed and the Soviet support for Ethiopia be curtailed.

Al-Turabi, who participated in the meetings held here by an Arab League panel on solving the Lebanese crisis, said the Sudanese Government should work to save the Sudanese economy especially as Sudan is deprived of international loans due to its refusal to commit itself to IMF conditions.

In statements to the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH' Al-Turabi said that a new Sudanese government was formed as ministers of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party withdrew from the government, a thing which affected the situation in the whole country.

Al-Turabi Announces Release of 3 Coup Plotters
EA0602075189 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT
5 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Feb—The Higher Emergency Committee resolved in its meeting today that 79 detainees held under the preventive detention regulation are to be released. This was announced by Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, foreign minister and member of the committee.

He said that among those released were persons charged with illicit dealing in foreign currency while others had been involved in illicit trading in commodities.

He added that among the released there were also three politicians involved in the attempted coup—supporters of a previous regime

Dr al-Turabi attributed the release of these persons to the expiration of the detention period in accordance with the emergency ordinance and as a result of the stability in financial and supply policies. His excellency said that those among the released who had been trading in currency would be subject to supervision so that they would not return to their previous activities.

Defense Minister Receives Romanian Delegation
EA0102215489 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT
1 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Feb—Defence Minister Ret General Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil met here yesterday with the visiting Romanian delegation chaired by the Romanian minister of economy and commerce. The meeting reviewed the outcome of the joint committees' meetings as regards the strengthening of relations between the two countries in the fields of economy, commerce and military affairs. The Romanian delegation arrived here last Monday on a visit to the country until next Friday.

Economic, Trade Protocol Signed
EA0602080289 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1437 GMT
5 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Feb—The economic and commercial protocol between Sudan and Romania signed here the day before yesterday amounted to \$66,000,000 million, of which \$44,000,000 million will be exports from Sudan and \$22,000,000 million for the importation of Romanian goods. Of the exports, \$22,000,000 million will be for debts owed by Sudan to Romania.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning said in a press statement that the protocol, which covered a year, had defined the Sudanese goods for export to Romania which included cotton valued at \$10,000,000 million, yarn and thread at \$1,000,000 million, and chrome at \$10,000,000 million, in addition to other commodities such as cotton cake and umbaz [plant used for making infusions].

The source added that the protocol stipulated the importation of Romanian goods, including spare parts, and the implementation of projects in the electricity petroleum sectors, and in the improvement of drinking water.

The source said that it was agreed that the Sudanese debts to Romania would be discussed in the annual joint ministerial meeting between the two countries in order to reach agreement on ways of settling the debts and their terms on a yearly basis.

The source also said that the Romanian side had expressed its country's readiness to work in the field of oil exploration and the exploitation of oil in Sudan. Agreement was reached to hold a meeting in Khartoum in March to study what Romania could offer in this regard.

The protocol was signed on behalf of Sudan by Dr al-Tijani al-Tayyib, the minister of state at the Ministry of Finance, while on behalf of the Romanian side by Cornel Pinzaru, minister of state at the Ministry of Trade and International Economic Cooperation.

Radio SPLA Reports Liberation Army Clashes

9 Jan Clash

EA0302170889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Units of Bee Battalion under the command of Captain John Majak Solomon and overall command of Alternate Commander Edward Achunyi Dao clashed on 9th of January 1989 with enemy forces in (Nyan Chum) near Wau. Two enemy soldiers were killed and another two wounded. [passage omitted]

23, 25 Jan Shelling

EA0302171789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Terakeka enemy garrison came under heavy shelling by SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of Infijar Campaign Tactical Headquarters, Manjil Task Forces, and Abu Nyal Task Force under the operational command of Captain Thon Arot Akon and the overall command of Comrade Alternate Commander Bona Bang Dhol, deputy commander of Infijar Campaign Forces.

The shelling, which took place on 23rd and 25th of January 89, caused widespread damage in both men and materiel. [passage omitted]

26 Jan 'Ambush'

EA0302173889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Combined SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of Area No 4 Headquarters, Bee, Shark, Minshar, and Kawkab Battalions, under the overall command of Alternate Commander Edward Achunyi Dao, commander of Area No 4 and commander of the combined forces, ambushed the enemy convoy on 26th January 1989 on Aweil-Wau road.

The enemy sustained heavy casualties in men and materiel. Over 50 enemy soldiers have been killed, including their commander with the rank of colonel, and many others wounded. Three vehicles have been destroyed—one tank and two others loaded with sugar and mortar shells. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Meets With Libyan Envoy Al-'Ubaydi

LD0602170989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today received 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, high commissioner of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Tunis, in the Republic's Carthage Palace.

After the meeting he said that the head of state entrusted him with a message for his brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi concerning consultations regarding bilateral relations, and the building of the Greater Arab Maghreb. He said that President Ben Ali is eager to complete the construction of the edifice of the Greater Arab Maghreb for the good of the Arab people in the region.

Ben Ali Holds Talks With Jordan's Al-Qasim

JN0202173689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Tunis] Tunis—At the Carthage Palace in Tunis this morning Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed to the president the greetings and best wishes of His Majesty King Husayn.

The talks dealt with the march of fraternal relations binding the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Republic of Tunisia. Al-Qasim and the Tunisian president voiced satisfaction over the level attained in these relations. Both sides expressed the desire to work to further strengthen and develop these relations in the interests of the two countries and the two peoples.

The talks touched on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas as well as the efforts being exerted to support peace efforts and stability in the Middle East.

Al-Qasim and the Tunisian president reviewed the results of the work of the six-member Arab League committee and the good offices it has been exerting with the aim of helping Lebanon restore its unity, independence, and total sovereignty on its territory and enabling it to restore normalcy.

President Ben Ali asked the deputy prime minister and foreign minister to convey his greetings and appreciation to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, and his best wishes of further prosperity and progress to the Jordanian people.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, and Jordanian Ambassador to Tunisia Talal Sat'an al-Hasan.

Kuwait

'Rumors' Regarding Ties With Iraq Dispelled
JN0702145289 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
6 Feb 89 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Beginning of a New Chapter"]

[Text] HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister today begins his visit to Baghdad.

The people of Kuwait and the whole of the Gulf and Arab peninsula have been eagerly waiting for this visit to materialise as they realise its importance and know why it comes at this particular time. People are also aware that the success of the visit carries certain implications for them.

During the bitter years of war between Iraq and Iran, Kuwait voluntarily performed its patriotic and national role. This has been fully appreciated and announced without any reservation by the Iraqi leadership. No opportunity was lost to praise the Kuwaiti role.

Thus, it is necessary for this role to be strengthened and as a consequence comes the visit of HH the Crown Prince and Premier—after Iraq emerged victorious and defended its independence and as peace is prevailing.

The Kuwaiti people and the peoples of the region are eagerly looking for Shaykh Sa'd's visit. They are well aware that the success of the visit will put an end to all types of rumours and plots spread by those who used to adopt divide and rule policy and the policy of lies. Lying continuously, they say, will make some people believe some of the lies.

Some issues are still outstanding between Iraq and Kuwait. Iraq does not hide its desire to end such issues and is aware that some factors still affect it. With all brotherhood and affectionate feelings, Kuwait on the other hand based its position on the fact that it did not want to raise the issues at an inappropriate time.

It left for the other side the opportunity to choose a suitable time and place. This position is certainly acknowledged by the Iraqi leadership that never forgets friends and deals with them faithfully.

The visit of HH the Crown Prince and Premier of Kuwait to Baghdad is the appropriate time and place to settle the issues. Iraq is aware of the fact that much talk about it should not be aired. The victorious Iraq and Kuwait, who stood with Iraq, know that the Arab world now is governed by more logical ideas for co-operation.

Whatever borders may be, it is not the bond that can link the peoples. People through strong relations based upon achieving the interests of all sides can do more than open borders.

Through good neighbourly relations, people can overcome borders between them. Obviously, the demarcation of borders between Iraq and Kuwait will certainly silence to all those who are used to fish in troubled waters.

The visit of Shaykh Sa'd to Baghdad comes at a time when the people of this region are convinced that it comes after efforts for its success were made and that its success is pre-arranged.

Thus, the visit is indeed the beginning of a new chapter in relations between Iraq and Kuwait—the country at war and the country that supported, respectively.

PDRY

Husaynun Announces Oil Exports To Begin in 1991
JN0402195589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
3 Feb 89 p 3

[Text] The PDRY will begin producing oil from the beginning of next year and export it in 1991. This was announced by Abu Baker bin Husaynun, PDRY energy and minerals minister, in an interview with the magazine AL-BITROL [PETROLEUM], issued by the UAE Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources.

Bin Husaynun said his country will begin producing 30,000 barrels of oil per day in 1990. This will be increased during the following year to 120,000 barrels.

He added: At the beginning, we will cover domestic consumption and export the remainder depending on the market capacity and the best available prices.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Meets Iraqi Air Force Official
LD0502215089 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1420 GMT
5 Feb 89

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Feb (SPA)—At his palace this afternoon, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received a delegation from the Iraqi Defense Ministry led by Air Force Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b, assistant Air Force commander for operations.

He delivered a message to HRH Prince Sultan bin 'Abd al-'Aziz from His Excellency Air Force General 'Adnan Khayrallah Talfah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister of Iraq.

Report on 'Concealed Crisis' With Egypt Denied
LD0602235389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT
6 Feb 89

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Feb (SPA)—In reply to a report published in AL-SAFIR today, Monday, which cited informed sources concerning the existence of a concealed crisis between Saudi Arabia and Egypt over Arab economic and political issues, an official source said to SPA:

Everything in the mentioned news item is untrue in whole and in detail. It is nothing more than the imagination of a sick person, or a frustrated malevolent person who is trying in vain to raise doubts about the relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its sister, Egypt.

The source further said: The newspaper alleged that Saudi Arabia was behind the fact that some GCC states did not undertake to finance the Arab body for industrialization aims, and that the delay in convening the ordinary Arab summit—which is to be convened in Riyadh—is due to the lack of will for Egypt's return to the Arab ranks and its participation in that summit.

The source said: The greatest proof against this calumny is the fact that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the only country during the Algiers summit which called for the return of Egypt to the Arab League. The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz voiced this request at the conference and tried, and is still trying, to achieve it.

The source continued, saying: The paper pointed out in its false claims that Saudi Arabia thinks that Egypt was the reason why Iraq and North Yemen joined the quadripartite economic group. Furthermore, it states that North Yemen's joining such a group will encourage the Yemenis to stir up border problems with Saudi Arabia.

This claim is rejected, regardless of who made it, because it clearly distorts the facts. However, the Kingdom here would like to point out that it blesses any Arab group which aims to achieve whatever is in the interests of the Arab nation, consolidates its economy and bolsters its capabilities.

The Kingdom would, moreover, like to reiterate that its relations with its sisterly YAR have never been stronger or deeper than today. The best example of this was what the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, said today at the Council of Ministers meeting on the depth of the relations of brotherhood and friendship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the YAR.

The source continued his statement saying: As far as the paper's allegations are concerned, within the context of these fabrications—that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia views Egypt's mediation between Kuwait and Iraq on their border problem as aimed at drawing Kuwait into the quadripartite group in order to create a split in the GCC—

such an allegation is categorically untrue. It falls, however, within the campaign of confusion and skepticism that is sowing seeds of discord between Arab countries.

The source concluded his statement saying: The ties and the bonds between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and fraternal Egypt are much too strong and solid to be affected by such overt and cheap attacks.

Djibouti President Gouled Arrives on Visit
LD2801115289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0940 GMT
28 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of the Republic of Djibouti arrived in Riyadh this morning.

He was welcomed on arrival at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Riyadh region; Health Minister Faysal al-Hujaylan; Eng Sa'd al-Tasan; director of King Khalid International Airport; Djibouti Ambassador Dr Saleh Hadji Faleh; and a representative of the royal protocol.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Urges 'Common Islamic Market'
JN0602170089 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT
6 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, Feb 6 (GNA)—United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today called for the establishment of a common Islamic market to pool the massive resources of the Islamic nations.

In a speech, opening the eighth session of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, the president said the Islamic nation, with its potentials in terms of resources and population, was capable of playing a leading role in world economics.

The speech was delivered on the president's behalf by UAE Minister of Economy and Commerce Sayf ibn 'Ali al-Jarwan.

He said joint economic action and coordination of activities by the 46-member Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) were needed to avoid the mounting obstacles and negative results of the current world economic situation.

The president urged the participants to learn a lesson from the experience of the European Community (EC), which has succeeded in coordinating the 12 member-states' policies in various fields.

He noted that these countries did not share the same religion and traditions that united the Islamic world.

"God has blessed our Islamic nation with natural resources and large population... It is also endowed with a great civilization that entitles it to establish a comprehensive common Islamic market," the president said.

He urged politicians to join hands with Muslim experts and scientists to build a better future for the coming generations.

The president said despite the fact the ICO member-states population represented more than one-fifth of the world's total, their share in international trade was "very limited."

He urged the Islamic states to increase the volume of their trade relations as a good basis for the common market.

Shaykh Zayid said the UAE, which adopts Islamic as the source for legislation, was keen to bolster cooperation with all Islamic nations.

The UAE is also committed to all resolutions adopted by the ICO in various fields, the president added. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Syria's Al-Zu'bi Ends 'Fruitful' Committee Talks
JN0702161489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The second session of the higher Yemeni-Syrian joint committee which met from 5-7 February and was held under brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, and brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Syrian Council of Ministers, ended in Sanaa this morning.

At the beginning of the session, brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi signed the minutes of the joint meeting of the second session of the higher Yemeni-Syrian joint committee. The minutes stress the need to increase cooperation in the economic and trade areas; exchange commodities and products; hold trade exhibitions; cooperate in the areas of construction, agriculture, irrigation, and education; and exchange expertise in the tourist area.

An information agreement between the two fraternal countries was also signed. It was signed for our country by Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and member of the Standing Committee; and for the Syrian side by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Then brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani delivered a speech in which he said: Dear brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi, dear members of the fraternal Syrian side: We are very pleased with your presence among us, and we are also happy over the talks which were held during the past 3

days—talks which touched on several ways to strengthen relations between the two fraternal countries. During the talks, we reached an agreement on the contents of the minutes which we signed today and we also signed the information agreement between the two countries. We hope that our agreements will be implemented in accordance with the specified programs.

The prime minister and member of the Standing Committee added: We were also happy to discuss bilateral relations, the Arab arena, and the steps that will strengthen pan-Arab actions. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank you for the understanding we have reached and for the brotherly Arab spirit which prevailed in the talks.

We hope that what we have reached will strengthen our relations. We are satisfied with the level of our relations we have achieved under the leadership of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. At the end of his speech, the prime minister said: We welcome you again in your homeland, and we hope that visits will continue at all levels so that we can support and strengthen bilateral action and the joint Arab action. Thank you.

Then Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi delivered a speech in which he expressed his complete satisfaction with the atmosphere which prevailed in the talks held during the second session of the higher joint committee, and also with the useful results.

He said: We hope that during each meeting we hold this evening and between the two meetings, we will reach more advanced levels. I am confident that we will reach this because there is a joint desire for that and because we are the sons of one nation, have one fate, and what we are doing is a step toward a joint Arab action in which we believe; toward the march of cooperation; and toward construction, stability, united action, and solidarity in favor of the Arab nation's interests.

The Syrian prime minister added: During this session and during our visit, the spirit of friendship, brotherhood, and frankness prevailed in our talks with the brothers. We also exchanged information and expertise. We admired past and present achievements in Yemen through the efforts of the sons of Yemen and as a result of stability in the YAR under Col President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

He added: During our talks with my brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and the brother ministers and during our meeting with brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, we sensed a sure desire to promote relations between Syria and the YAR [words indistinct]. Once again, we affirm that the Syrian people, government, and president deeply appreciate and love the Yemeni people and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

He also expressed confidence that the current steps to bolster relations are sound. We are one people and we have one fate and one goal, pointing out that bilateral action between the two countries has achieved progress. He also voiced hope that relations will grow further in the future. At the end of his speech, he expressed his happiness over the visit, hoping that more visits will be exchanged by officials in the two countries. Then he extended an invitation to brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani to visit Syria. [passage omitted]

Before the final round of talks, brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, met with his brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Syrian Council of Ministers. During the meeting, they reviewed a number of topics pertaining to the brotherly cooperation between the two countries in the various areas. Brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers in fraternal Syria, and his delegation left Sanaa this afternoon after a 3-day visit to our country. He headed the Syrian side to the second session of the higher Yemeni-Syrian joint committee. [passage omitted]

Before leaving Sanaa, Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi made the following statement to SABA: Our visit to the YAR has been useful and fruitful as a result of the talks held between us and the YAR officials during the meetings of the joint committee or during the important meeting with Col President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who expressed deep appreciation and love for the Syrian people and President Hafiz al-Asad.

He added: We also sensed the true desire of Col President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to promote relations between Syria and Yemen to an advanced level. This visit also gave us a chance to hold brotherly discussions on various Arab issues, and during the visit, we were able to acquaint ourselves with the important achievements scored under the revolution and with the efforts of the fraternal Yemeni people in which we take pride. These achievements would not have been scored if stability had not been achieved in YAR.

At the end of his statement, brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi expressed his thanks to brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, to all the ministers, and to all of the other officials he met during the visit who showed love and appreciation.

GPC, PFLP Delegations Hold Consultations
JN0602181589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] This morning, a round of talks was held at the headquarters of the General People's Congress [GPC] between the GPC and the PFLP led by brothers Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, Consultative Assembly member and secretary general of the Standing Committee, and PFLP Secretary General George Habash. The sides reviewed the solidarity

between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and the ongoing contacts between the YAR political leadership and the national Palestinian leadership.

They also discussed current developments against the backdrop of the massive revolution in the occupied land that has underlined the Palestinian people's readiness to make numerous sacrifices on behalf of the restitution of their usurped rights and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Both sides stressed the need to increase the struggle and maintain the momentum of the Palestinian popular revolution until a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is established. They also reviewed relations between the GPC and the PFLP and ways and means to develop them further in the interest of the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. They stressed the importance of reinforcing Arab solidarity and the cohesion of the Arab masses to foil imperialist and Zionist schemes seeking to undermine the Arab nation and strike at its vital interests.

Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi said that the YAR has maintained a principled and constant position on the Palestinian cause and that it will continue to extend unlimited support to escalate the popular revolution in the occupied land until the Palestinian people regain their legitimate rights and build an independent state on their national soil, led by the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. He applauded the heroic spirit of the Palestinian people in the occupied land and their confrontation of the brutal Zionist military machine.

For his part, Dr Habash expressed his appreciation of and pride in the democratic march of the YAR and the interaction between the Yemeni revolution and masses. He lauded the overall progress being made in the YAR led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also noted our country's support and backing for the Palestinian people and revolution and its concern in fostering the unity of the Palestinian struggle. He said the Palestinian masses in the occupied land were showing steadfastness and courage in standing up to the oppressive Zionist enemy. Dr Habash declared that the Palestinian people are determined to attain independence and freedom.

Attending the talks for the GPC were brothers Ahmad al-'Imad, assistant secretary general of the Standing Committee; 'Abd al-Hamid al-Haddi, head of the culture and guidance committee; and Muhammad al-Muhtar, rapporteur of the administration and services committee. For the PFLP the meeting was attended by brothers Abu Nidal Musallami, Central Committee member; Abu Khalil, official in charge of PFLP's foreign relations; and Abu al-'Izz, PFLP's representative in the southern part of the homeland.

Salih Confers With Habash
JN0602172189 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress,

received brother struggler George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, this morning to discuss the latest developments in the Arab arena, foremost of which are the situation in the Palestinian arena, and the militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

During the meeting, brother George Habash briefed the brother president on the new developments in the Palestine question both on the Arab and international levels and in light of the Palestinian move to support the PNC resolutions regarding the declaration of the Palestinian state. Brother George Habash also expressed the Palestinian revolution's appreciation for and pride in the firm and principled position of the YAR—president, government, and people—to support the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people's brave struggle to regain their usurped rights and establish their own independent state.

For his part, brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih stressed the YAR's continued absolute support for the Palestinian revolution. He also greeted the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied territories, stressing the importance of bolstering all forms of Arab support for the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people to continue their brave popular revolution against the Zionist occupation, confront the repressive and terrorist measures taken by the Zionist occupation authorities against peaceful Palestinian citizens, and secure their inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; and Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee.

Joint Committee With Libya Meets in Sanaa
JN0602204789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The meetings of the Yemeni-Libyan joint preparatory committee for the third session of the higher Yemeni-Libyan joint committee began in the Central Planning Department in Sanaa today.

At the end of the session, brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade, delivered a speech welcoming the Libyan brothers. He stressed the need to promote the brotherly cooperation

between the two fraternal countries and voiced satisfaction with the cordial relations between the two political leaderships led by brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, who continue to give instructions to expand the joint action between the two fraternal countries. The YAR minister also expressed his confidence that these meetings will produce fruitful results that will serve the interests of the Arab people in the two fraternal countries.

Dr Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, secretary of the general people's committee for planning in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, also expressed his happiness over this meeting in Sanaa. He said: Here we sense Arabism, hospitality, love, and a warm reception. He pointed out that the meetings between the two sides resulted from the deep, sincere, and distinguished brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and are also part of the pan-Arab trends of the two political leaderships in both countries, including efforts to achieve Arab unity and serve the Arab people's interests.

He pointed to the various spheres of present and future cooperation and ways to promote them in the interest of the two peoples and the Arab nation. He voiced hope that the current session will produce good results.

Then the two sides reviewed the topics before them and the four committees: namely, the economic and financial committee, the educational and information committee, the technical committee, and the drafting committee were formed. These committees continued their meetings to carry out the tasks entrusted to them. The meeting of the preparatory committee was attended by the YAR ambassador to Libya and the Libyan deputy secretary of the brotherhood bureau in Sanaa.

'Abd al-Ghani, Farhat Confer
JN0702173889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, today received brother Dr Muhammad Lutfi Farhat, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, who is visiting our country at the head of a Libyan delegation to the preparatory committee for the third session of the higher Yemeni-Libyan joint committee. During the meeting, they reviewed the work of the preparatory committee and discussed aspects of cooperation between the two fraternal countries. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade and the Libyan deputy secretary of the Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa.

Popular Army Formations To Be Pulled From Front
JN0802120489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1122 GMT
8 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and commander in chief of the Popular Army, said that 100 Popular Army sectors will be withdrawn to the rear by the end of next March.

In a statement to the weekly ALIF BA' issued here today, Ramadan said that a coordinated plan has been drawn up and its implementation will be completed by the end of March with the aim of withdrawing all the Popular Army sectors, adding that these sectors will first be withdrawn from the front to the rear and their personnel will then be demobilized.

Ramadan noted that the Popular Army command has drawn up a plan to train all able bodied citizens who are not reservists and that the plans that were drawn during the war succeeded in the field of training, combat, and internal security.

Ramadan noted that plans to train Iraqi women to take up arms will continue and new training courses will be implemented.

The Popular Army today celebrated the 19th anniversary of its establishment.

Foreign Minister 'Aziz Arrives in New York 7 Feb
JN0802080389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT
8 Feb 89

[Text] New York, 8 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here last night on a several-day visit.

UN sources said that 'Aziz will meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss with him a new round of negotiations to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is scheduled to arrive in New York tomorrow to meet with the UN secretary general on the same issue.

UN Security Council is expected to meet today to discuss the UN secretary general's report on the situation of the UN military observers in Iraq and Iran.

Kuwaiti Heir Apparent Al-Sabah, Delegation Visit

Al-Sabah Makes Press Statement
JN0602121889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT
6 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, arrived here at noon today on an official visit to Iraq.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah was officially received by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim. RCC members Sa'dun Shakir and Hasan 'Ali and a number of Iraqi ministers and ranking officials participated in the reception.

In a press statement upon arrival, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said that his visit to Iraq stems from Kuwait's interest and concern in increasing meetings and exchanging visits between the officials in the two fraternal countries to discuss the issues and subjects which strengthen, deepen, and develop the existing fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries.

He said that Kuwait is seeking at both the public and official levels to increase cooperation in various fields with the brothers in fraternal Iraq out of the conviction that this cooperation will provide more prosperity for both countries.

He added that, while in Iraq, he will hold talks with President Saddam Husayn, 'Izzat Ibrahim, and the brothers in Iraq on the new developments in the region after the cease-fire and agree on a unified policy to unite the Arabs in word, deed, and rank in confronting what is threatening the security and entity of the Arab nation.

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim said in a similar statement that Iraq appreciates the great Iraqi people's brave stand by their Iraqi brothers in confronting the fierce and aggressive attack on the Arab nation from its eastern gate in Iraq.

He expressed great joy over His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah's visit and the discussions he will hold with Iraqi officials, foremost among which is President Saddam Husayn. He added that the negotiations will express precisely what the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people and leaderships want pertaining to the basic and big goals, especially at this stage which the Arab nation, and this region in particular, is going through after the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and the great historic victory Iraq achieved for the Arab nation.

He expressed hope that His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah's visit will add something new and great at the same time to the fraternal relations between Iraq and Kuwait. This new addition will enable Iraq and Kuwait to jointly contribute toward supporting the Arab nation's march in confronting the aggression occurring in all parts of the region, whether in the field of ending the Iran-Iraq war, confronting Zionist aggressions, finding a solution to the difficult Lebanese situation, which the Lebanese people have been suffering from, or uniting and gathering the Arab nation's efforts to create the future aspired for by the generations.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah is accompanied by an official delegation consisting of Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, state minister for cabinet affairs; Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Trade Minister Faysal 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Khalid; and a number of officials.

'Official' Talks Begin

JN0602192689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1908 GMT
6 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the State of Kuwait began here this evening. The Iraqi side to the talks was led by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim while the fraternal Kuwaiti side was led by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister.

During the talks, they discussed the developed relations between the two fraternal countries, the Arab and international situation, and the latest developments in the Arab arena. [passage omitted]

Al-Sabah, Saddam Husayn Confer

JN0602201089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1939 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Excerpt] President leader Saddam Husayn received at the Saqr al-Qadisiyah Palace this evening His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of the fraternal State of Kuwait. His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah conveyed to President leader Saddam Husayn the greetings of his brother His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, amir of the fraternal State of Kuwait, as well as the congratulations of his highness and of the Kuwaiti Government and people on the victory achieved by Iraq in the battle of defending the Arab nation.

During the meeting, his highness reiterated Kuwait's stand and desire to cooperate with fraternal Iraq in various fields and discuss the details and formulas of cooperation and its implementation. President leader Saddam Husayn asserted that Iraq's victory is also a victory for all Arabs for the sake of their pride, dignity, and future.

President leader Saddam Husayn thanked His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah for the congratulations. The president asserted that Iraq gives all opportunities to the brothers in Kuwait for cooperation, without any reservations, in all fields according to the brothers' wish. [passage omitted]

'Official' Talks Resume

JN0702123489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—Iraqi-Kuwaiti official talks were resumed here today.

The Iraqi side to the talks was headed by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the Kuwaiti side by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations; progress in Iraqi-Iranian negotiations; the situation in Lebanon; and the conditions in the Arab region, particularly those related to enhancing joint Arab action and the Palestinian question and supporting the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and their just struggle under the leadership of the PLO.

It was decided to hold meetings among members of both delegations according to their fields of specialization. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of the talks, 'Izzat Ibrahim welcomed the visit by His Highness Shaykh al-Sabah, which comes in the wake of the historical victory by Iraq and the Arab nation against the sinful Iranian aggression.

He said that Kuwait was among the first of the fraternal countries that congratulated the sons of Iraq on the victory they scored for the Arab nation.

The RCC vice chairman added that the visit will give fresh strong impetus to the fraternal and fateful relations between the two sisterly countries. He stressed Iraq's desire for these relations to take a distinguished nature and a wider scope covering all fields, so that they become exemplary bilateral and Arab relations.

He reviewed the progress of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations and Iran's attempts to block implementation of Resolution No 598.

He pointed out the situations that currently threaten the interests and security of the Arab nation, and stressed the importance of consolidating the collective and common Arab security.

He said that Iraq is working seriously to push forward the Arab nation in accordance with its capabilities and circumstances. The Arab nation, he said, should not regress, and should move forward through all open formulas and means of development and openness under the big umbrella and through Arab solidarity.

The RCC vice chairman stressed Iraq's rejection of any formula for interference in the Arab countries' internal affairs.

He renewed Iraq's support for the Palestinian cause and the struggle of the Palestinian people, under the PLO, for the attainment of their legitimate rights and the establishment of their independent state.

He also renewed Iraq's stance on the need to bring about a lasting and honorable solution to the Lebanese problem. He stressed Iraq's support for the efforts of the six-man Arab committee to find a solution to this problem.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah expressed his delight for visiting his second country, Iraq, and for the good reception he was accorded, which deeply impressed the members of the accompanying delegation.

He said: I am pleased to visit our second homeland Iraq. Our meeting with President Saddam Husayn and the RCC vice chairman added to our pleasure.

He said that he is conveying the congratulations of Kuwait to fraternal Iraq over the great victory in repulsing the aggression and foiling all its aims and schemes. This is a victory for the entire Arab nation, he added.

He explained that his visit is meant to boost cooperation with his brothers in Iraq in all fields. He described relations between the two fraternal countries as based on love, brotherhood, understanding, and a joint march that guarantees for the Arab nation further steadfastness and ability to confront the enemies.

He said that it is now time for joint action to return to Arab solidarity and cooperation in all fields, so that the strength of Arab countries can be highlighted.

Al-Sabah Receives Ramadan

JN0702174089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, received at his place of residence this afternoon Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister. They discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them, and issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Karim Hasan Rida, minister of agriculture and irrigation and head of the mission escorting Shaykh al-Sabah; members of the Kuwaiti delegation; and the Iraqi and Kuwaiti ambassadors.

Hammadi Meets Counterpart

JN0702173289 Baghdad INA in English 1705 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 7, INA—Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, state minister for foreign affairs met here today with Mr. Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, the Kuwaiti state minister for foreign affairs.

LET FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Bilateral relations between the two countries and means of developing them were discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and Mr. Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Kuwaiti foreign undersecretary, the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait and 'Abd al Hamid 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Bu'ayjan, director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

Trade Ministers Meet

JN0702185289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today with Faysal al-Khalid, Kuwaiti commerce and industry minister.

They discussed means of bolstering bilateral relations and increasing trade between the two countries in their joint interests. They agreed to hold the meetings of the joint trade and transit committee in the next few days.

Sa'dun Shakir Visits Al-Sabah

JN0702194589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, received at his place of residence this evening RCC member Sa'dun Shakir.

The meeting was attended by Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Al-Sabah Receives Minister

JN0802110089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT
8 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, received at his place of residence here today Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization.

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between the two fraternal countries and means of promoting them in the industrial fields.

Attending the meeting were Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs; Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs; Faysal al-Khalid, Kuwaiti minister of trade and industry; a number of Kuwaiti officials; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

Papers on Talks, Border Issue

JN0802124989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT
8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—In their editorials today, Wednesday, the Iraqi newspapers attached importance to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti talks and urged the two nations to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti talks and urged the two negotiating delegations to view the interests of both Iraq and Kuwait as one when discussing the border issue.

In an editorial entitled "The Interests of Iraq and Kuwait Constitute One Case," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The two sides are called upon not to forget the 8-year war experience. We must benefit from the facts of the strategic, political, and military criteria and their repercussions on the border issue.

The paper adds: The future and present should be viewed in a manner that will make the Iraqis and Kuwaitis, out of the spirit of brotherhood and the deep pan-Arab relations between them, completely satisfied by and convinced of any solution reached by both sides.

It stresses that the border issue can only be settled through serious action and sincere intentions, and that any call in this regard should not only be addressed to Iraq, but to Kuwait and Iraq together.

Shaykh al-'Abdallah al-Sabah arrived in Baghdad the day before yesterday on an official visit to Iraq at the head of a Kuwaiti delegation to hold talks with the Iraqi officials.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The border issue, which remains unresolved between Iraq and Kuwait, constitutes a real thorn in the sides of Iraq and leader Saddam Husayn—a thorn that is disturbing the pure of wishes of what relations between the two fraternal countries should be. The countries have much in common with all Arabs and very much in common with each other.

It adds: Reinforcing the independence of both Iraq and Kuwait and the happiness of the Iraqis and the Kuwaitis necessitates further cooperation in all walks of life, and both sides should become one working team.

The paper says that President Saddam Husayn appreciates his Kuwaiti brothers' stand, including the honorable stand of newsmen, and he has always spoken about this stand. After the liberation of the city of Al-Faw, and after talk about the border issue between the two countries has taken on true significance in light of securing the required capability and liberating the two countries' will from the burden of the psychological pressure, the president instructed the foreign minister to convey to his brother Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the need for both countries' foreign ministers to be entrusted with the task of following up this issue and finalizing a solution to it.

The paper adds that President Saddam Husayn has proposed to his brother, the Kuwaiti amir, that the RCC vice chairman lead the Iraqi side and that Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah lead the Kuwaiti side because the Iraqi foreign minister is busy with the issue of negotiations with Iran.

AL-THAWRAH says: Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah is currently Iraq's dear guest to hold talks on this issue and to resume serious discussions, supported by President Saddam Husayn and his highness the Kuwaiti amir.

The paper expresses hope that the talks will continue in Baghdad and Kuwait without interruption to reach a final agreement, because the border issue can only be settled through serious action and sincere intentions.

It adds that the Iraqis' sacrifices throughout 8 years of war have expressed their will to achieve victory for the Arab nation and the stands of some Arab brothers have reflected a true pan-Arab affiliation. President Saddam Husayn said that the Arab brothers' support for Iraq, in all its meanings, is regiments of fighters who [words indistinct]. He also expressed great pride in every Arab support to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Addresses Jordanian Committee
JN0602175789 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT
6 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 6, INA—President Saddam Husayn received here this morning the head and members of the popular committee to support the struggle of the Iraqi people in Jordan.

Talking to the members of the committee, President Saddam Husayn expressed his thanks and appreciation for the efforts that had been exerted by the popular committee in support of the just battle of Iraq against the Iranian aggression. The president highly appreciated Jordan's efforts and the sincere national attitude of Jordan's king, government and people in support of Iraq and its just struggle in defence of the eastern gate of the Arab nation.

His excellency praised all forms of support received by Iraq from its Arab brothers and said that we had seen them as battalions of fighters.

President Husayn stressed that the Arab leadership must be a leadership of interaction and not an individual one and that the outcome of the interaction among the Arab leaders represents the Arab leader awaited by the Arabs.

President Husayn also talked about the conditions of the Iranian regime and said that the revolution in Iran was turned, after removing the regime, into a case that contradicts with all concepts of the revolution in its humanitarian meanings and it seemed as if it was planned and directed against the Arabs. [sentence as received]

A number of the popular committee members had delivered speeches before the meeting in which they expressed their love and appreciation for President Saddam Husayn and their high respect for his heroic leading role in achieving victory and establishing peace that removed disappointment which was to harm the nation's will.

The speakers also greeted the bravery of the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi people and their great sacrifices in defence of the Arab sovereignty and dignity.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Husayn received a gift in the name of the committee. Moreover, one of the committee members gave another present in the name of a Jordanian family whose head was one of the committee's members.

The meeting was attended by the Iraqi minister of culture and information, Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

Jordan's King Departs

JN0602173189 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1714 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, left Baghdad this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq. His majesty was accorded an official sendoff led by President leader Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Iran May Block Participation in UN Conference

LD0302205589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1821 GMT
3 Feb 89

[Text] Geneva, Feb 3 (KUNA)—Iraq is to formally request participation in the United Nations conference on disarmament when it begins its 1989 session here next week, but it appears that Iran will block Baghdad's involvement, as it has for the past two years.

Iraqi Charge d'Affairs Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Qadi [name as received] told KUNA "we will make a formal request next week because we want to express our point of view at the conference."

The application will not be made until Tuesday or Wednesday, after Iran has handed over the presidency of the organisation to Italy.

In 1987, and again last year, the Iranians did not agree to Iraqi participation, and as the conference works under the principle of consensus, Tehran only had to inform the other members of its opposition for the request to be turned down.

Iraq has already contacted the secretariat of the conference to let it know of its intention to apply again.

The 40 members of the conference take it in turn to be president for one month.

Iran has been a member of the conference, the world's only multilateral disarmament forum, for more than 30 years. Other members include the five nuclear weapons powers.

The only Arab members of the conference, which is currently trying to draw up an international treaty banning the production or stockpiling of chemical weapons, are Algeria, Morocco and Egypt.

Applications for participation this year have also been received from Tunisia, Syria and Libya.

The secretary-general of the conference, Milian Komatina of Yugoslavia, today said that these three were likely to be accepted. But he declined to comment publicly on the Iranian opposition to Iraqi participation.

In its years of membership, Iran has been one of the more active participants, with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati speaking before the conference at least once a year.

It was understood that arrangements were being finalised for Velayati to speak at the meeting in late February.

Official Addresses UN Human Rights Commission

JN0402190089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1656 GMT
4 Feb 89

[Text] Geneva, 4 Feb (INA)—Iraq has urged the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and force the Zionist entity to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and abide by the UN resolutions. Barzan Ibrahim al-Takriti, Iraq's permanent representative at the UN European headquarters in Geneva and head of the Iraqi delegation to the 45th session of the Human Rights Commission, addressed the commission yesterday stressing Iraq's absolute belief in nations' right to political, economic, and social self-determination.

He also referred to the UN resolutions on the Palestine question over the past 40 years, affirming that the Zionist entity has not abided by these resolutions and that it continued to defy the international community by occupying Arab territories and attacking Iraq, Lebanon, and Tunisia.

The head of the Iraqi delegation also referred to the statement made by former Zionist War Minister Ariel Sharon following the attack against the Iraqi nuclear reactor which was constructed for peaceful purposes. Sharon said that Israel's Lebensraum extends from South Africa to Pakistan. The Iraqi representative said that this statement reflects the extent of the Zionist entity's challenge to the international community as well as its expansionist and hostile intentions as a firm policy throughout its history.

He stressed that the Palestine question is Iraq's primary and central issue in the Arab region and that Iraq fully supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil and in their Palestinian homeland under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. He reiterated Iraq's support for the Palestinian surprising, which constitutes a legitimate resistance and struggle to liberate the land and confront the occupation.

The Iraqi representative also expressed Iraq's concern over the sufferings of the South African and Namibian peoples. He also said that the Palestinian people and the South African people are facing the same problem and that the colonialist Zionist entity in Palestine and the racist regime in South Africa are similar because they are racist and expansionist regimes.

He explained that any solution to the South African problem lies in the full implementation of Security Council Resolution No 435 calling for a total independence under SWAPO. He also stressed Iraq's support for the struggle of the Namibian and South African peoples under the African National Congress and Azania [as received].

Reaction to State Department Human Rights Report

'Exaggerated'; Ignores 'Context'

TA0802053789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The United States says the killing and wounding of Palestinians in the territories could have been prevented in some cases. In the State Department's 1988 Human Rights Report, Israel is accused of a substantial increase in human rights violations in the areas. [passage omitted]

The report's findings are expected to be discussed in a scheduled meeting today between the Israeli Ambassador in Washington Moshe Arad, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Israeli Foreign Ministry officials will meet today to discuss the State Department report.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Alon Li'el said the report doesn't take into consideration the overall context and the attempt by extremists to disrupt day-to-day life in the territories. In light of these difficulties, the Army is maintaining moral norms and is preserving human rights. The violations that do occur are rare and are dealt with severely.

Officials at the Prime Minister's Office said the report was exaggerated. Yosi Ahime'ir, office chief for the prime minister, said Israel is defending its security in the territories. He said troops were compelled to use force to insure order. [passage omitted]

Official Reaction 'Laconic'

TA0802162589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Report by Natan Gutman]

[Text] Senior Foreign Ministry officials, together with Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu, today convened to discuss Israel's reaction to the Schifter report. The conclusion reached at the end of the meeting was simple: It is the responsibility of the Army and the defense establishment to issue a reaction to the human rights report. The Foreign Ministry, for its part, limited itself to the preliminary reaction according to which the report does not take into consideration the events' overall context and the incessant provocation.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the IDF maintains moral standards and upholds human rights in the territories. The uprising is in essence a rejection of negotiations as a way to dialogue and peace. This is the Foreign Ministry's somewhat laconic official reaction.

At this morning's session at the Foreign Ministry it was estimated that the Schifter report will not tangibly harm Israeli-U.S. relations or U.S. aid to Israel. The report's main impact will be on public opinion in the United

States and in the Western world. The Foreign Ministry believes that administration leaders are perfectly familiar with the situation in the territories and are not influenced by reports.

Israel will take action to emphasize the fact that contrary to other countries, Israel posed no objections to those who compiled the report. They were able to do their job without any difficulties. It will be further clarified that the international press acts freely in the territories and that Israel does not attempt to conceal or falsify facts in the territories.

'Security Requirements' Noted

TA0802114489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Foreign Ministry here in Jerusalem has responded to the State Department report by saying it did not give full consideration to the actions of local extremist elements and the violence against soldiers in the territories.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told reporter Mark Weiss that Israel is in a state of war. He said the reason such a report was published is because Israel remains the only democracy in the area.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] I'd like to make it clear: We're in a war, a state of war of systemic violence and terror directed against both Arabs and Jews. The PLO has killed, since December of 1987, 66 Arabs; has wounded 100 more—those Arabs who wanted dissent from the PLO's way of violence and intimidation. So what we're dealing with here is deliberate provocation, terror, bombings, burnings; and under such very, very difficult conditions. Israel, and the Israeli soldiers, have tried to act with restraint, with proportional response. It's not easy, but we're doing our best.

[Weiss] In light of the U.S. criticism, do you envisage any change in Israeli policy in the territories?

[Netanyahu] I think our policy was born not out of the questions or the views of others, although we always take them into account, but our interests, our own security requirements. We'll continue to do what we can to both restore tranquility to the area and to bring about the kind of environment where Arab leaders are not intimidated by the PLO, assassinated by the PLO. Those people who want genuine coexistence with us, our job is to provide them the kind of environment where they're free from terror intimidation. That's what the PLO opposes. That's what we promote and we'll continue to act in that direction.

The news of the U.S. Government are always of interest to us, but, again, the final requirement and the final responsibility for protecting the lives of Israelis, protecting the lives of Arab and Jewish residents of the territories, lies with the State of Israel. We're keenly interested in restoring tranquility and preventing any abuses as

anyone else, and probably more than anyone else. We don't have to be goaded. We want that peace probably more badly than anyone else on earth. [end recording]

Rights 'Basic Tenet' of Conduct

TA0802163189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Here is the IDF's first reaction to the Schifter report. Official military sources have said that Israel holds human rights as a basic tenet of its conduct. The U.S. Administration's report did not take into consideration circumstances in which local residents riot, humiliate soldiers, and challenge them. The IDF stressed that every death of a local resident of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is investigated by the Military Police. The investigation's conclusions are then relayed to the military attorney's office.

The regulations on opening fire were formulated out of concern for human life. Soldiers may resort to live fire only when their lives are in jeopardy. The use of plastic bullets has already been sanctioned by the military attorney's office and the Justice Ministry.

House demolitions and sealing are done selectively and only in special cases, when the residents are involved in very serious terrorist activities.

Residents are placed under administrative detention when security factors, rather than political ones, are involved. Every instance of administrative detention is subject to judicial inspection.

The military sources noted that out of tens of thousands of soldiers who have served in the territories since the beginning of the uprising, several hundred have faced trial for deviant behavior, including 50 who were tried by military courts.

Egyptians Walk Out of Tabah Talks in 'Anger'

TA0702143089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] There has been a sharp diplomatic incident at the Tabah talks. Hasan 'Isa, head of the Egyptian delegation, walked out of the conference room in great anger. He told our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein that he was deeply offended by the disrespectful tone of the remarks and the behavior of the Israelis. He also accused Yitzhaq Li'or, head of the Israeli delegation, of responsibility for the diplomatic incident.

Mr Li'or told our correspondent that the incident resulted from a misunderstanding after the Israeli delegation yesterday decided to conclude the talks this afternoon but did not inform the Egyptians. The Egyptians received the announcement through the MFO representative.

Because of the incident, the Egyptians canceled a planned tour of Elat, and its members even refused to lunch at the Aviya Sonesta Hotel. They ate Arab pocket bread and cheese brought to them from the Egyptian border crossing post.

Hasan 'Isa told our correspondent that the Egyptian delegation would not meet with the Israeli delegation again.

'Misunderstanding' Resolved

TA0802054789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The diplomatic tiff that resulted in an Egyptian walkout from the Tabah talks has been settled. The matter was removed from the agenda following a telephone conversation last night between the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Re'uven Merhav, and Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Muhammad Basyuni.

The Egyptian delegate to the Tabah talks had earlier complained of insulting behavior by the Israeli team and left the discussions. The Israeli delegate said the incident was blown up out of proportion and the entire incident had been based on a misunderstanding. [passage omitted]

Agreements Reached

TA0702154589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The Israeli and Egyptian delegations to the Tabah talks left the Aviya Sonesta Hotel to return to their capitals after a sharp diplomatic incident there over 1 hour ago.

Our correspondent Yehudit Silberstein reports that Hasan 'Isa, the head of the Egyptian delegation, left the conference room in a huff. He said he was deeply offended by the disrespectful tone of remarks made by the head of the Israeli delegation and by the behavior of the rest of the delegation.

During today's meeting Hasan 'Isa told Yitzhaq Li'or: If you do not want us here, we will get up and leave. Hasan 'Isa told our correspondent that the decision to stop the talks was not based on instructions from Cairo, but because of the character of the head of the Israeli delegation.

Our correspondent points out that the atmosphere during today's meeting was tense after the Egyptian delegation arrived 45 minutes late. The head of the Israeli delegation referred to it in a manner that was taken by the Egyptians as a reprimand. The atmosphere deteriorated from that moment and the two sides addressed each other in sharp tones.

Yitzhaq Li'or said the incident was the result of a misunderstanding following the decision of the Israeli delegation yesterday that the talks would conclude this

afternoon. The Israeli delegation, however, did not inform the Egyptian delegation of this decision. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent reports that the sides actually reached agreement on most points in the negotiations, except for the issues of currency and insurance for Israeli vehicles in Tabah and the Sinai.

Rabin: IDF Must Operate Within 'Confines' of Law
TA0802131389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Report from the Knesset by Shlomo Raz]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin is currently addressing the Knesset, responding to motions which deal entirely with topical issues, such as the Schifter report and the situation in the territories. In his opening remarks Yitzhaq Rabin said that a solution to the problem of the territories can only be found through the combination of a political process and military prowess. Let us hear excerpts of his remarks:

[Begin Rabin recording, picked up in mid-sentence] ...the State of Israel to repel any assailant but not to eliminate war. This is not part of the IDF's mission. Never, except for once, has the IDF been entrusted with the job of annihilating anti-Israel terrorism in the Middle East. The only time that we intended to liquidate or uproot terrorism—from only one country—we failed.

Therefore I did not, the Cabinet did not, instruct the IDF to stop the uprising by military means. Instead, it said, as stipulated in the government's basic guidelines: The IDF and the other security elements will continue to take action to safeguard the well-being of all inhabitants. They will take firm action to halt the riots, prevent violence, and restore order. By the same token, neither the police nor the legal establishment have ever been asked to totally eliminate crime once and for all.

I therefore draw a distinction and regard the collective policy as a two-pronged, simultaneous path. On the one hand I say to the inhabitants of the territories: Do you want peace? Fine, let us reach it around the negotiating table. On the other hand I say that we should answer violence with force—but with one proviso: This must be done within the framework of the law.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify one thing with regard to the issue raised by Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen. In war there is the front and the rear. In war one confronts the attackers, whether they are terrorist organizations from Lebanon or elsewhere or the armies of the Arab countries. There is war against the terrorist organizations which are operating under one umbrella and use firearms and other weapons. The problem insofar as the inhabitants of the territories is

concerned is that we are faced with a civilian population. Here we must preserve law, order, and peace on the one hand, while on the other, we are... [end recording]

Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated previous positions that a political process coupled with military strength is necessary; that if the inhabitants of the territories want peace they must sit at the negotiating table; and that the IDF will react with full force—albeit within the confines of the law—to violence. This is nothing new, but it came in response to several motions to the agenda that were raised by Hayim Ramon, Ge'ula Kohen, Tawfiq Tubi, and Hanan Porat—each according to the views they traditionally hold. That is all for now, although Rabin is continuing his Knesset address.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 8 February adds: "The defense minister says that he has no intention of responding to the Schifter report on human rights in the territories since he has not yet read it. He was responding to motions to the Knesset agenda."]

IDF Orders Must Meet 'Test of Reasonableness'
TA0802085789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 8 Feb 89 p 12

[Report by Oscar Franklin]

[Text] The IDF's chief legal officer confirmed yesterday that soldiers may not shoot plastic bullets at fleeing rioters unless they are fleeing "in order to improve their positions and continue the riot."

The distinction between an escaping rioter and one who is moving from one place to another within the arena of the disturbance was one of the main points clarified to the military ranks as an outcome of the discussion held last week in Attorney-General Yosef Harish's office on the legality of the open-fire orders.

These details were revealed yesterday by IDF Judge-Advocate General Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] Amnon Strassnoff in a meeting with law reporters in Jerusalem.

"In case of a doubt," said Strassnoff, "soldiers are ordered to refrain from using plastic bullets." The bullets may only be fired from a stationary position.

Strassnoff added that since the beginning of the intifada orders on using live ammunition had not been altered in any way. He told the reporters that during the past 14 months he had rejected many proposals for a tougher punishment policy. "But the judicial system cannot remain stagnant in face of developments which required new answers," he said.

Among proposals rejected were to allow soldiers to shoot lethal ammunition at stone throwers, to increase the period of administered detention from six months to 12 and to lower the age of legal responsibility from 12 years to nine or eight.

Strassnoff revealed that he had been asked to examine the legality of demolishing all the houses in the West Bank village of Bayta last spring after a clash with Jewish hikers resulted in the death of 16-year-old Tirtza Porat. Even though the proposal did not in principle contradict what is permitted by the emergency laws it was rejected outright. "Our policy is to follow the test of reasonableness before issuing any major order."

Strassnoff maintained that the use of quick trials in the past month had proved successful. About 150 people were brought to court in a short procedure of two to three days. Ten of them were acquitted.

Since the intifada began, 8,000 Palestinians had been brought to trial, 4,500 trials had been completed, 3,000 people were awaiting trial in jail, while 500 were out on bail until the end of proceedings.

Strassnoff said that in 5 per cent of the trials the defendants were acquitted, while 1,100 were still held in detention camp, compared with 3,000 at the height of the intifada. Strassnoff added that 25 to 30 per cent of the appeals against detention had been accepted by the authorities.

Fifty Israeli soldiers and officers had been court-martialed for offences connected with the intifada, including eight cases in which a death had been caused. In addition, between 200 to 300 soldiers have been tried and punished by their commanding officers.

Cabinet Views Political Solution for 'Uprising'
*TA0802111589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 8 Feb 89*

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres today strongly attacked Minister Ari'el Sharon for criticizing the IDF, the government's policy, and the defense minister while visiting abroad.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that at this morning's Inner Cabinet session, Shim'on Peres demanded that measures be taken against Minister Sharon for his blunt criticism. He added that he believes there is no chance of ending the uprising without a political solution and that he has such a solution.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said that there was an attempt to find a political solution through the London document agreement reached between Peres and King Husayn, but that once Husayn withdrew from it, this solution was no longer viable.

At the conclusion of the session, the prime minister suggested that the Inner Cabinet hold a separate session soon on the issue of a political solution to the uprising.

Earlier, the Inner Cabinet concluded the debate on the IDF and the defense establishment's activity in the territories.

Incidents, Casualties in Territories Continue

1 Killed in Megiddo Prison

*TA0802131089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 8 Feb 89*

[Text] A security prisoner was killed this morning in Megiddo prison and 14 others were injured by IDF military police gunfire. This occurred during riots held simultaneously by prisoners inside the prison and by 150 of their relatives outside the prison walls. The uproar broke out after they were told their visit would be cut short.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the prisoners' relatives hurled stones at soldiers, blocked the Megiddo intersection, and damaged several vehicles, causing a large contingent of policemen and border policemen to be summoned to the scene.

A resident of Rafah, 20-year-old Akhram Muhammad Abu Nahla, died this morning in Tel Hashomer Hospital from wounds caused by IDF gunfire yesterday during demonstrations. The IDF is investigating the circumstances.

A general strike is being staged today in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to mark the beginning of the 15th month of the uprising. The IDF imposed curfews on several Rafah neighborhoods. The curfews on 'Al-Shati', Khan Yunus, and Jabalyah remain in force.

200 Detained in Megiddo 'Riot'

*TA0802144589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 8 Feb 89*

[Text] Here is an update on the Megiddo prison riot and the events that followed it: Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that shots fired by military policemen in the prison killed 1 prisoner and wounded 14, 1 of whom is severely wounded; 7 others are in serious to moderate condition. This group has been hospitalized in 'Afula.

The Border Police detained some 200 family members who rioted outside the Megiddo prison walls while visiting their relatives. The inquiry is being led by the deputy chief of the military police. Guards inside the prison were reinforced.

The junction near Megiddo prison is clear now, but six cars were disabled by stones and metal bars thrown at them by the rioters. According to one of the reports, some of the visitors hoisted PLO flags inside the prison, and attacked a guardpost with stones.

Qabatiyah Resident Killed

*TA0802161189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 8 Feb 89*

[Excerpt] A resident of the village of Qabatiyah was killed during a violent clash with IDF soldiers this afternoon. A curfew was imposed on the village. [passage omitted]

Fatah-HAMAS Demonstration

TA0702124389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 7 Feb 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela]

[Text] In the first joint demonstration of its kind, youthful supporters of Fatah and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) held a military-style march in the streets of Nabulus, local residents reported.

According to the reports, about 100 young men affiliated with Hamas and the Al-Shabiba, Fatah's youth movement, marched in the Hilat al-Amud neighbourhood. The Al-Shabiba youths sported keffiyahs while the Hamas activists wore black facemasks. The demonstrators marched behind a large Palestinian flag as onlookers cheered from rooftops, and at the end of the procession saluted and kissed the banner, the reports said.

A similar military-style march was reported at the Janin refugee camp. Martial processions have been reported in several West Bank areas this week to mark the anniversary of Yasir 'Arafat's appointment as chairman of the PLO.

Palestinians said a youth was wounded by gunfire during clashes in Tulkarm, and a teenager was hospitalized with beating injuries in Nabulus. Clashes were also reported in the areas of Janin and Ramallah.

In other developments, Palestinians reported that a leaflet distributed in Tubas signed by the local branch of the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising" urged attacks on Israeli vehicles, saying that any car with a yellow licence plate should be considered as military target. The leaflet also urged a boycott of Israeli products and called on newspapers not to publish advertisements for Israeli goods.

Another leaflet signed by the Unified Leadership in Ramallah included a series of directives to counter the economic crisis in the West Bank caused in part by the devaluation of the shekel, the declining worth of the dinar, and increased tax-collection by the Civil Administration. Merchants' associations were urged to post price-lists in shops to prevent price-gouging, and employers were urged to increase their workers' wages.

In Al-Birah graffiti signed by the "strike forces" ordered employers to raise salaries by 40 per cent. The leaflet also urged a tax boycott and called on landlords to lower rents by 25 per cent.

In Qalqilyah, the Civil Administration income tax office was burned by arsonists, according to reports from the town. A tax-raid was reported in Bethlehem.

Grffiti signed both by the Hamas fundamentalist movement and the unified leadership of the uprising covered walls in all Gaza Strip towns yesterday and called on the population to confront troops.

Also in the Gaza Strip, two 15-year-old Palestinians were sentenced to one month imprisonment for cursing soldiers and provoking disturbances. A 12-year-old was released because of his age. Two others, aged 20 and 19, received three-month sentences for throwing stones.

Thirteen young people were treated for bruises and broken limbs and three for wounds caused by plastic bullets.

About 5,000 farming families have suffered financially because of recent frost damage to fruit trees and vegetables in the Gaza Strip, a senior source in the agriculture department of the Gaza civil administration told THE JERUSALEM POST. Gaza farmers do not have insurance against damage to their crops and are considering turning to international funds for financial help.

Commercial Strike Continues

TA0802115589 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
8 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Dani Rubinstein, Dani Tzidqoni, and Yoram Levi]

[Text] A general strike is expected today and tomorrow in the territories to mark the 14-month anniversary of the uprising. Over the past 2 days a new body calling itself the "National Front" has called on the residents to abstain from any contact with the Israeli administration and urged Arabs to immediately resign from the Civil Administration. Ten people were injured in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip yesterday, among them a 6-year-old boy and a 10-year-old Rafah girl who lost an eye from a rubber bullet.

Unidentified people yesterday stabbed 25-year-old 'Awad 'Umar in central Hebron on suspicion of collaboration. He was rescued by an Army patrol. The soldiers then searched the site. Masked men yesterday broke into the Nabulus municipality's tax offices and set part of the equipment and files there on fire. This was part of a series of measures taken by the local youths to stop the residents from paying their taxes. The offices of an Arab township were attacked yesterday for the first time. An IDF unit arrived at the place and saw the damage.

A new body called the "National Front" has sent announcements to East Jerusalem press offices over the past 2 days calling on the inhabitants to totally refrain

Memo on Attempts To Move U.S. Embassy in Israel
JN0602212789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—Senator Akram Zu'aytir, head of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs, has sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i on Israeli attempts to move the U.S. Embassy to the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem.

The memorandum says that, since the beginning of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Israel has attempted to convince the United States to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Israel has wanted to accentuate its declared decision to annex Jerusalem and consider it the capital. It has also been trying to drive the world's countries to move their embassies to Jerusalem to legitimize its occupation and sovereignty over the entire holy city.

The memorandum points out that the United States did not move its embassy to Jerusalem in pursuance of the various international resolutions. It condemns the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem and does not recognize its legitimacy—something that the Arab and Islamic countries have worked for and been keen on.

The memorandum adds: There have been repeated reports of intensive Israeli efforts to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. One aspect of these efforts is the search for a piece of land in Jerusalem on which to build the embassy.

It said that efforts were exerted with the U.S. State Department before the end of the former U.S. President's term in the form of negotiations between the two sides to buy a piece of land in Jerusalem on which to build the U.S. Embassy. The memorandum stresses that the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs sees the danger and threat that such a move will constitute to the future of Jerusalem and its Arabism and Islamism.

To prevent this, and out of concern for the future and Arabism of Jerusalem, which His Majesty King Husayn and his government have been working and struggling for, the committee hopes that this subject be given due consideration and that contacts be made with the foreign ministers of Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries to foil Israeli efforts and ensure U.S. commitment to UN resolutions on not moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

Egypt's Al-Baz Delivers Message to King Husayn
NC0502122589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1201 GMT
5 Feb 89

[Text] Amman, 5 Feb (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan received a message from President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the situation in the Middle East, within the framework of the constant consultations between the two Arab leaders.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, delivered the message to King Husayn during a meeting today before the latter left for Baghdad. Al-Baz arrived in Amman earlier today on a visit of several hours, after which he departed for Cairo.

King Husayn Returns From Working Visit to Iraq
JN0602173389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman this afternoon after a 2-day working visit to the Republic of Iraq. [passage omitted]

He was received by Crown Prince Hasan, Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn, senior civic and military officials, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman. Returning with his majesty were Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister, and Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, chief of the Royal Court. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Holds Session, Hears Report on Lebanon
JN0502080889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers this evening held a session under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i during which it heard a report by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the Arab good offices committee entrusted with dealing with the Lebanese crisis which met in Tunis recently to settle the crisis and restore security and stability to fraternal Lebanon.

The Council also approved the minutes of the Joint Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee's meetings recently held in Cairo and the Joint Higher Jordanian-YAR Committee's meetings in Amman last month. The Council also approved an agreement to avoid dual taxation between Jordanian and Pakistani civil aviation airlines.

Fine for Exceeding Residence Period Increased
JN0802074889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a session this evening under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to approve a draft law amending the Law of Residence and Foreigners' Affairs. The law raises the fine for exceeding the time limit of residence permits to 30 Jordanian dinars per month.

Tehran Gives 'Green Light' To Release Hostages
JN0802171589 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
7 Feb 89 p 8

[By 'Imad Judiayah]

[Text] Beirut—The issue of foreign hostages has returned to the surface in the wake of the agreement concluded in Damascus between Amal and Hizballah. Nabih Birri's said that this agreement will help release the foreign hostages in Lebanon, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed hope that the foreign hostages will be released as early as possible for humanitarian reasons.

These stands coincided with the sudden visit to Tehran by Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who had visited Tehran 2 months ago. The observers linked this visit with the information disseminated to Lebanese circles on the near release of the hostages.

Informed political sources disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD that what pushed the issue of the hostages to the surface is the information received by regional and international circles on Damascus' request to Tehran on the need to swiftly close the hostages' file and release all foreign hostages.

Damascus insisted that the Iranian leadership expedite the closure of the hostages' file because the conflict within the Iranian leadership between the moderate current led by President 'Ali Khamene'i and the other current led by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi has been decided in the president's favor. This prompted the Syrian leadership to hold urgent contacts with Khamene'i to end the issue of the hostages as soon as possible.

Prominent Shi'ite leaders, who participated in the Damascus meetings, told AL-ITTIHAD that the message Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conveyed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad not only dealt with the Amal-Hizballah dispute but also with the issue of hostages. President Khamene'i affirmed to President al-Asad his absolute agreement to work toward ending the issue of hostages soon.

AL-ITTIHAD's information added that Tehran, a few weeks ago, began to hold backstage intensive contacts with the kidnappers to help as well as to pressure for the gradual release of the hostages as soon as possible.

The observers wonder why Tehran sent an urgent invitation to scholar Fadlallah to visit Iran at this particular time although he visited Iran 2 months ago.

The information affirms that the visit to Tehran by scholar Fadlallah will prepare the final arrangements to release the hostages, particularly since Fadlallah himself—throughout the past 2 years—has been calling for

an end to this issue because it lost its meaning. This was one of the points of difference between Fadlallah on the one hand and Tehran and the kidnappers on the other during the past period.

The observers note that the statements made by Hizballah officials on the issue of hostages in which they said that the party will no longer support such practices are not accidental.

These statements were suggested by Tehran which gave the green light to release the hostages at the appropriate time after completing the necessary arrangements.

However, informed Western diplomatic sources believe that Tehran exerted serious pressure toward ending the issue of hostages soon because the conditions it placed before the American presidential elections to release the hostages were not met. These conditions include the release of all Iranian assets in the American banks that have been frozen since the shah's era in addition to supplying Iran with spare parts for its warplanes.

Therefore, Tehran found itself captive to this issue now that the the American presidential elections ended without achieving its objectives. Therefore, Tehran tried to end this issue and close its file, hoping to restore diplomatic relations with Washington because this will help it achieve its demands away from resorting to kidnapping operations.

Amal-Hizballah Coordination Committee Meets
NC0602184989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The Amal-Hizballah Coordination Committee held a meeting at the Syrian observers command headquarters at noon today. Attending the meeting were Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observers, and representatives of the Amal Movement and Hizballah. The committee resumed its discussions and study of ways to implement the provisions of the agreement signed between the two parties in Damascus.

The committee issued a statement after the meeting. It said that the two parties have reached an in-depth understanding of a group of principles dealing with the implementation of the various provisions.

The committee declared that the course of its work is characterized by a positive approach, which is being translated into action on the ground every day. It added that this atmosphere would help expedite the implementation of the agreement. The committee will continue to hold meetings.

Visits Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0802103989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Members of the subcommittee formed by the joint Amal Movement-Hizballah coordination committee left for Iqlim al-Tuffah today to finalize plans for the withdrawal of gunmen from Jba' and 'Ayn bu Siwar tomorrow before lifting the sieges and reopening the roads, as stipulated in the agreement between the two sides.

Iranian Officials Discuss Amal-Hizballah Truce
LD0402092289 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT
4 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut Feb 4, IRNA—Developments in southern Lebanon and the truce between Amal and Hizballah militias were discussed between an Iranian diplomat and a Lebanese Foreign Ministry official Friday.

Iranian charge d'affaires Hoseyn Niknam also invited the Lebanese Foreign Ministry Director General Salah Satitiah to visit Iran.

Amal's Birri Receives Iranian Delegation
NC0602144189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri received an Iranian delegation today. It is currently visiting Lebanon to follow up implementation of the peace agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

After the meeting, delegation member Shaykh (Taskhiri) said: Praise be to God, our meeting with Minister Nabih Birri was fruitful and successful. We congratulated the Amal Movement on the agreement. We implore God Almighty to change this agreement into solid cohesion between the two sides so that they may attain the objectives of the noble Lebanese people and confront the treacherous Zionist enemy which always seeks to disrupt our unity.

Al-Musawi on Amal-Hizballah Attacks Against Israel
NC0402081689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Addressing a gathering of notables from various families from the Al-Biq'a' region in Ba'labakk, Husayn al-Musawi [leader of the Islamic Amal Movement] has stated that the Damascus agreement has united the Amal Movement and Hizballah in their confrontation with the Zionist enemy. All Muslims are winners as a result of this agreement. What was achieved in Damascus represents a danger to the Jews and their agents, who have used their media services to stir up sensitivities, capitalize on small things, and play with words in order to distort this achievement and depict it as temporary.

Al-Musawi added: Newspapers and radios have resorted to quoting out of context the statements and remarks issued by Amal and Hizballah officials. This serves those who have been harmed by the agreement and who are trying to shake the Muslims' confidence with regard to the seriousness of the agreement. We stress that we and Amal have signed an agreement providing for the escalation of joint Amal-Hizballah operations against the Israeli enemy.

Addressing the audience, Al-Musawi said: you will soon hear about joint operations carried out by the resistance fighters. An operations room also will be set up for this purpose. In addition to the military aspect, we will act to establish one front that will pay attention to political matters. Both sides will adopt a unified decision in the future to confront the U.S. political decisions and Arab reaction, in cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria.

Al-Huss on Elections, Reforms, Syrian Withdrawal
NC0402141989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss clarified matters in a news conference which he held at the Government House today. He said: At the conclusion of the consultations which the Arab committee held with us, I made a brief statement. I would have preferred not to add to it so as to give the committee the opportunity to go as far as it could with regard to its much appreciated efforts to help rescue Lebanon from its predicament and ordeal.

I wanted the committee to complete its consultations with the various parties in accordance with the resolution under which it had been formed and to publicize the results of its activity when its task was concluded. However, when we returned to Beirut, we were surprised to find some media drawing an unbalanced and frequently unobjective and unfair picture of what had occurred in Tunis, particularly those media committed or linked to parties to the conflict. Some of our and other peoples' positions were portrayed in a false manner. Some of our positions were left out of the news and rumors were fabricated about contacts which we had not held. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss added: We have emphasized the need for reforms to accompany the presidential election. We realize that it is neither practical nor possible to separate the election from a discussion of reforms. [passage omitted].

Responding to a question about Michel 'Awn's proposals for the Syrian Army's withdrawal, Dr al-Huss: It is only natural that the Lebanese regular Armed Forces should reassume their security tasks in all Lebanese areas. We hope that it will be possible to accomplish this at the next opportunity. Our position on General 'Awn's proposal

concerning the withdrawal of the fraternal Syrian forces from Lebanon is clear and frank—such a withdrawal will take place when the cabinet adopts a decision on this matter.

He added: Such a decision must be adopted under the auspices of a unified regime and a united government. Naturally, when such a decision is issued, fraternal Syria will respond and withdraw its fraternal forces from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Huss added: Naturally, certain forces should be present to replace the Syrian forces. The Lebanese Army will constitute the backbone of the legitimate Lebanese regular Armed Forces which must replace the Syrian forces in all Lebanese areas one day. For this reason, talk of the withdrawal of the fraternal Syrian forces from Lebanon must be accompanied by talk of rebuilding the Lebanese Army in a manner that will enable it to assume its tasks effectively and efficiently.

He declared: This is an issue on which reconciliation must be reached. It also emphasizes the need to attain national accord as soon as possible.

Conditions for 'Awn Meeting

NC0402184889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 4 Feb 89

[News conference held by Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss with unidentified correspondents at Government House in West Beirut on 4 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Huss] [Passage omitted] The consultations which were held with the Arab committee in Tunis were very positive and fruitful. The brother members of the Arab committee fully understood our viewpoint and appreciated our views of the essence of our cause. Measured by what was anticipated or expected of the committee in the first round of its activities, we think that it was successful. The important thing is that it will continue its mission. It will resume its consultations with all the parties to achieve a salvation formula which could end the tragedy of Lebanon and its people. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, there were numerous reports, during the Tunis meetings, that the Arab committee was seeking to arrange a meeting between you and General Michel 'Awn. What truth is there in these reports, and why did such a meeting not take place?

[Al-Huss] It is true that such a suggestion was made to us. I have made more than one statement in this regard. I made it clear that there is no personal dispute between us and Gen 'Awn preventing reconciliation from taking place. There is a national problem, and we must seek concrete solutions to it. We are ready to meet with Gen 'Awn at any time, once we have agreed on a unified position on how to rescue the country from its ordeal and end the divisive state that exists today.

We will meet on the basis of a unifying position. But a meeting without any basis, I think, involves dangers that could threaten the country's unity. It is our view that the existence of two governments in one country threatens the unity and existence of that country. If there are two governments in one country, they must be in conflict and cannot reach understanding except on a formula that would restore unity to the executive authority and unity to the country.

If we had met with Gen 'Awn it could have opened the door to meetings in Lebanon and the continuation of talks between us in Lebanon. This would result in the coexistence of two governments in the same country, and this would entail serious danger to the country's unity and existence. We are ready to meet Gen 'Awn at any time when we have agreed on a unifying salvation position. But we are not ready to take steps that would mean the mutual recognition and coexistence of the two governments. This would perpetuate division and threaten the country's unity and existence.

[Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] The position of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Tunis. [words indistinct]

[Al-Huss] We regret this matter, and cannot understand it. We cannot offer any explanation. Such an event speaks for itself, and I do not want to comment on it more than this. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Speaks with Kuwait's Al-Sabah, UN's Aime
NC0602091989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has received a telephone call from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the seven-member Arab committee. They discussed a number of matters related to the committee's work in the wake of the Tunis meetings.

Prime Minister al-Huss also received Jean-Claude Aime, UN assistant secretary general, this morning. They reviewed the conditions in Lebanon, the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate, and the Israeli practices in southern Lebanon.

Further on Talks With Aime

NC0602175089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Jean-Claude Aime, UN assistant secretary general for political affairs, today held a swift round of consultations with Lebanese officials on the international Middle East peace conference as well as on the status of UNIFIL. He will visit the South tomorrow to inspect the UN Forces there.

Aime visited Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss in the morning. Diplomatic sources said that the discussions dealt with the status of UNIFIL and the active international move regarding the Palestinian issue and convening the international Middle East peace conference. The talks also touched on Israeli practices in the South and the occupied territories. In particular, they discussed the deportation of Lebanese and Palestinian citizens, as these deportations violate the human rights charter and the 4th Geneva convention. In addition, the continuing Israeli attacks on Lebanon were also discussed.

Aime also visited General Michel 'Awn and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Faruq Abu al-Lam'.

Kuwaiti Minister Calls 'Awn on Arab Committee
NC0602203789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn received a telephone call from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the seven-member Arab committee and Kuwaiti foreign minister, this evening. They discussed the work of the committee, the talks that Shaykh al-Sabah held in Cairo and Damascus, and the committee's plans for the second phase of its activities.

Kuwaiti Urges 'Preliminary Reconciliation'
PM0702170189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 6 Feb 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Official To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Al-Asad Supported Arab Committee Steps in Lebanon"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—A senior Kuwaiti official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Kuwait believes that the prospects of achieving a comprehensive Lebanese accord given Arab blessing and supported by Syria are now more propitious than ever, especially as Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has expressed tacit blessing and profound support for the steps taken by the Arab committee under Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Kuwait is completely convinced that the committee has achieved more than half of what is required of it. And the meeting between the three Lebanese leaders and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad in Tunis last week was an opportunity to dot the i's and cross the t's and examine all the opportunities available to achieve peace in Lebanon and restore its Constitution.

The official emphasized that Kuwait is now preparing a list of senior Lebanese officials in all sects, groups, and blocs to invite to the expanded meeting which it has been decided to hold in Kuwait before the end of the month.

He also said that the Kuwaiti Government is seeking to persuade all Lebanese leaders to attend the meeting, which could be a good opportunity for a preliminary reconciliation that would open the door to an end to racial, ideological, political, and sectarian conflicts in Lebanon, as well as to the election of a new president, especially as the heads of the civilian and military government and President Hafiz al-Asad have expressed every support for any initiative to find a solution to current problems.

Informed sources in Kuwait expect Syria, alongside the committee's six member states, to take part in the reconciliation meeting to be held in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah yesterday received a report from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on the results of the committee's meetings. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Envoy Hands Religious Leaders Invitations
NC0802104989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad al-Jasim, who arrived in Beirut this morning, met with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at the Government House and conveyed to him the greetings of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the Arab ministerial committee.

Ambassador al-Jasim then visited Mufti Khalid, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, and Druze spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra and handed them invitations to attend the Arab committee meetings on 20 February.

Ambassador al-Jasim is scheduled to go to Bkirki to deliver a similar invitation to Patriarch Sfayr. [passage omitted]

Envoy Meets Patriarch Sfayr
NC0802162389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwaiti Envoy 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim left Beirut after visiting spiritual leaders and handing them invitations from the chairman of the Arab committee asking them to meet with him in Kuwait.

Within this context, the Kuwaiti envoy met with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr at 1330 today. Patriarch Sfayr responded to the invitation by thanking Kuwait and the Arabs for their efforts to help Lebanon ride out its crisis.

After his 40-minute meeting with Patriarch Sfayr, Ambassador al-Jasim said that he handed the patriarch an invitation from the chairman of the Arab committee to meet with him on 20 February.

Responding to a question on whether, in his capacity as Kuwaiti Ambassador to Syria, he found Damascus prepared to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, Ambassador al-Jasim said: Yes, but only when a strong Lebanese government that is capable of establishing its authority over all Lebanese territory emerges.

Muragha Denounces 'Awn-'Arafat Meeting in Tunis
NC0602080189 (Clandestine) *Voice of the Mountain*
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Excerpts] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has received a message from the secretary general of the Fatah-Provisional Command in which he denounces the meeting in Tunis between Michel 'Awn and 'Arafat.

The message says: Comrade struggler Walid Junblatt, leader of the PSP, greetings of the revolution. In the difficult and complicated experience we are going through and amid the great and serious challenges facing us, we feel it is our duty to say that we are eager to maintain the relations linking the struggle of our people in Palestine and Lebanon, particularly in view of the rising fever of the conspiracy against the nationalist cause of our nation and our Arab Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

During our joint confrontation with the Zionist enemy, we stood up to the isolationist and fascist powers which spared no effort to try to turn Lebanon into an imperialist, Zionist protectorate by detaching it from the Arab nation and hampering its democratic progress.

The isolationist powers in Lebanon have translated their agency to the enemy into dreadful fascist practices, beginning by establishing their own ghetto in East Beirut, then by causing security flareups in nationalist areas, and engaging bloody massacres against the sons of our Palestinian people in the camps. These massacres culminated in the Sabra and Shatila massacre which was committed by the Zionist enemy and its agents and claimed the lives of thousands of unarmed women, children, and elderly. [passage omitted]

Dear comrade, today, when the glorious uprising of our people inside the occupied homeland is intensifying and succeeding in its confrontation with the Zionist enemy, the 'Arafat-'Awn meeting takes place in Tunis. This meeting is another example of the renegade Palestinian group joining the reactionary Arab camp. The meeting was followed by 'Arafat's statement on the Palestinian rifle in Lebanon, which he says he is ready to put at the disposal of the isolationist, fascist powers.

While we condemn this meeting and these statements, we reiterate the following: First, the 'Arafat-'Awn meeting represents a blatant violation of the principles governing the Palestinian presence and rifle in Lebanon. Moreover, the outcome of the meeting is clear proof of 'Arafat's deviation from the revolutionary course and its objectives and aspirations.

Second, the 'Arafat-'Awn meeting once again proves the destructive role undertaken by 'Arafat in the Palestinian arena, not only against the nationalist Palestinian powers, but also against the nationalist Lebanese powers and Syria.

Third, the Palestinian rifle in Lebanon is not and will not be subject to 'Arafat's orders. Side by side with the nationalist Lebanese rifle, it will continue to point in the direction of the Zionist enemy and its agent fascist powers in order to protect our people's camps.

Out of our sense of nationalist responsibility, we reiterate our determination to stand up to the destructive approach of the renegades, both in the Lebanese arena and inside the occupied territories. We emphasize our strong alliance in principle with the nationalist Lebanese powers and Syria so that we can undertake our great responsibilities, foremost among which is to thwart the conspiracy which aims to subjugate our nation to the orders of the reactionary, imperialist, and Zionist plan. Revolution until victory.

Signed: Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary general of the Fatah Movement-Provisional Command

Source Calls 'Awn-'Arafat Meeting 'New Chapter'
NC0402082489 (Clandestine) *Radio Free Lebanon*
in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Today Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn will brief the ambassadors of the Western states concerned with the Lebanese crisis on the outcome of the Tunis Meetings and the Arab and French moves regarding Lebanon.

A source close to Michel 'Awn has quoted him as saying that the Arabs are serious in assuming joint responsibility in Lebanon because the highest U.S. and Soviet echelons are seeking a relaxation of matters in the world and, consequently, also in Lebanon. The regional sides are trying to find solutions to the small problems.

The source described Gen 'Awn's meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as a new chapter in relations with Palestinians after they proclaimed their state and their uprising, where they should be [Palestine]. He added: The Palestinians no longer constitute a danger to Lebanon. The source said that talk about placing the Palestinian rifle in the hands of Gen 'Awn is within this context, and it is aimed at using all cards in the interests of the Lebanese authorities.

The source added that the talk about the settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon is mere speculation, because nobody has declared such an intention. Any such proposal can only be confronted if all those who reject the idea of settlement meet and discuss the issue.

French Envoy Deniau Comments on 'Mission'

NC0402123189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] After meeting with Prime Minister Michel 'Awn today, French envoy Jean Francois Deniau said that the mission entrusted to him by the French Government is to help the Lebanese help themselves with the available resources to end the current crisis and meet the constitutional deadline. He pointed out that it is everyone's concern to safeguard Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty. He added: We help in this regard when we can.

Deniau said that he postponed his visit to Lebanon in coordination with the Arab League because of the meetings in Tunis. He said that the dialogue which took place there is important. He added: If it is possible to help bring about the success of this dialogue, it would benefit all. Although it was not approved the first time, he hoped that the dialogue would continue on the diplomatic level because it is a good way to reach a solution.

The French envoy added: all those who participated in the dialogue in Tunis are well aware of the causes of the Lebanese problem. The first step is to understand the problem, he said, adding: This is what we are doing.

After meeting with Foreign Ministry Director General Faruq Abu al-Lam', French envoy Deniau said: What has been achieved in Tunis is not negative. There are reasons for continuing the negotiations.

French envoy Deniau is now meeting with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr in Bkirki.

9 February Group Attacks Syrian Post in Beirut

NC0702210589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 2045 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has contacted Radio Free Lebanon and claimed responsibility for attacking a Syrian occupation forces post in Abu Shakir Square in Al-Tariq al-Jaridah in West Beirut at approximately 2030 today.

Four Syrian personnel, including an intelligence officer, were injured as a result of the attack in which machine-guns and handgrenades were used. Syrian forces immediately surrounded the area, and fired into the air, the organization's statement said.

Resistance Front Fires Rockets at Settlement

NC0802081889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] A statement issued by the National Resistance Front this morning says that its fighters fired two 107-mm rockets at Zar'it settlement, inside occupied Palestinian territory, at 2230 yesterday. A huge fire broke out in one of the buildings, and ambulances were seen rushing to the scene of the explosion.

Syrians Reportedly To Assume Suburb Security Role

NC0802062689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] REUTER has cited a Shi'ite source in Beirut as saying that the Syrian forces will assume responsibility for security in the southern suburb and that the military offices of Hizballah and the Amal Movement will be closed as of Monday [13 February]

Meanwhile, an explosive charge went off near a Syrian checkpoint in the Abu Shakir area of West Beirut last night. While a security source said one person was wounded, REUTER reported injuries to four persons. In another development, a military expert dismantled an explosive charge in Ksarah in Al-Biqa' yesterday. The device was set to explode in the law school building.

Israeli-Lahd Force Clashes With Amal 7 Feb

NC0702131189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1303 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] We have just received the following news report from the resisting South:

A joint force of Israelis and agents tried to advance toward the Shaqra combat lines at 1415 today. The force clashed with Amal groups using machineguns and rockets. We have been informed that the clashes are still raging and that enemy helicopters are hovering over the scene of clashes.

More on 'Violent' Clashes

NC0702141789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1405 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] According to security reports from the occupied border strip, a mechanized force of Israeli troops and agent Lahd militiamen stormed the Townships of 'Aytarun, Blida, and Bayt Yahun this morning. Infantry personnel conducted a wide-scale search campaign of the houses in the towns. It has been reported that a number of girls and boys have been arrested. The joint force was still in the three towns at 1300 today.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement had learned that a joint force of Israeli occupation forces and their agents comprised of infantry troops and tanks tried to advance toward Shaqra town at noon today with the support of helicopters. Amal Movement units and the populace intercepted the force and engaged in violent clashes, which were still raging at 1445 today.

Israeli-Lahd Post Attacked

NC0702170589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The National Lebanese Resistance Front has announced that one of its groups detonated an explosive device as an Israeli patrol passed by in Al-Naqrurah early today. The blast destroyed a troop carrier, killing or

wounding its occupants. Shortly afterward, the occupation forces raked the area with machineguns and later arrested a number of citizens. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement issued a statement this afternoon. It said that the Dawud Dawud group of the Lebanese resistance battalions attacked a position jointly manned by enemy personnel and agents in Al-Suwayda' at 1430 today. A 30-minute clash involving machineguns and rockets ensued. Five Israeli troops and agents were either killed or wounded. The group returned safely to base.

PFLP Issues Statement on Anti-Israeli Action
NC0702124689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] In a statement distributed in Beirut, the PFLP has asserted that the PLO is committed to all forms of struggle, primarily the armed popular struggle against Israel.

The above-mentioned front had claimed responsibility for the failed attempt to infiltrate into Israel on Sunday, when five gunmen were killed by Israeli bullets. Following this operation, Israel asked the United States to reconsider its decision to begin a dialogue with the PLO.

Israeli Forces Lay Ambushes, Fly Over Sidon
NC0702154189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1525 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Israeli forces laid ambushes in the Shaqra Valley in the South at dawn today in anticipation of infiltration attempts into the security belt area. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes flew over the south this afternoon, particularly over Sidon and the Palestinian camps.

Conduct 'Mock Raids' in South

NC0702195389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over Palestinian and extremist gunmen positions east of Sidon at 2000 today. The Israeli planes drew anti-aircraft fire.

Gunboats Cruise Off Coast

NC0702201589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] According to the latest reports from southern Lebanon, Israeli enemy aircraft stopped their mock raids over Sidon and nearby camps at approximately 2130 today. A formation of Israeli warplanes carried out massive overflights several times over Sidon and its camps this evening, staging mock raids. Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats are cruising off the Lebanese coast from Al-Awwali up to Al-Zahrani.

Planes Fly Over Sidon, Camps

NC0802100089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0950 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Tension prevails on the Lib'a, Kafr Falus, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines amid intermittent clashes between the South Lebanese Army and the extremist Islamic organizations.

Meanwhile, Israeli aircraft flew over Sidon and the camps on reconnaissance missions, drawing anti-aircraft fire.

Official Denies 'Indirect Role' in Pan Am Blast
PM0702171989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 5 Feb 89 p1

[Muhammad Sadiq report: "Charges Against Syria Are Part of Campaign To Undermine Relations With Washington"]

[Excerpt] Washington—The Syrian charge d'affaires in Washington, Bushra Kanafani, has denied U.S. media reports of the past 2 days accusing Syria of playing an indirect role in the operation against the Pan Am airliner which exploded over a Scottish village.

Mrs Kanafani told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that "Syria condemned the American airliner incident. It condemns all similar incidents and believes that all the reports and analyses on the disaster are linked to Israeli sources or sources which support or sympathize with Israel."

She added: "The aim of this campaign is to smear the image of Syria and Arabs in general and divert attention from Israel's bestial daily practices against the Palestinian people."

She deplored the fact that an important U.S. television network—such as CBS—broadcasts reports and information without even trying to check first with official U.S. sources. U.S. officials have categorically denied these reports and information.

She also said: "In our contacts with U.S. officials regarding these reports, they emphasized that the reports were untrue and that investigations were still in progress to identify the responsible party. The media claim in their campaign that the investigations produced results and evidence as to which party carried out the operation." [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi, Delegation Return From YAR Visit
JN0702173389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation returned to Damascus this afternoon after a 3-day official and cordial visit to the YAR at the invitation of YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. He was seen off at Sanaa airport by Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, ministers, the Syrian charge d'affaires and embassy staff, and the Yemeni ambassador to Damascus. [passage omitted]

Damascus Radio on Lebanon Committee, Iraq
JN0702184889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The six-member Arab committee entrusted with tackling the Lebanese crisis is expected to resume its contacts with the Lebanese parties in Kuwait on 20 February.

Pending the results that might be produced by the forthcoming contacts, we must tackle the committee's Tunis meetings as well as the stands adopted by some parties on these meetings. If we view the decision to form the committee, we will recall that Syria announced that it would not participate in order to give the committee plenty of room for movement, for its activities, and for its contacts to help reach the desired results pertaining to ridding Lebanon of its tribulations.

Syria saw the committee as an Arab effort that must be supported so that it can help as much as possible in ending the crisis in this fraternal state and in helping it find a solution to end its sufferings which have been going on for more than a decade.

Demonstrating this goodwill and sincere desire, which have always been the beacons guiding Syria's efforts and stands toward Lebanon, Syria supported and encouraged the formation of this committee and met with it. Syria also followed up its Tunis meetings with hope and received, with a sigh of relief, all initiatives evoking optimism.

These are signs of the intentions being harbored by Syria and the Arab parties which are members of this committee. However, other parties, such as the Iraqi regime and the Lebanese parties involved in the scheme to partition Lebanon, have not shared this same desire. Moreover, they have not been harboring good intentions.

The partitionists viewed the formation of the Arab committee as an opportunity that must be seized, not to save Lebanon, but to exert pressure through it on Syria, as its presence in the Lebanese arena constitutes a major obstacle obstructing implementation of the partition scheme which they have been tasked with implementing.

The one who follows up the conditions laid down by these parties and the demands spelled out as key demands notices that these demands focused on one thing: namely, making slandering Syria and its presence in Lebanon and denying all the sacrifices it has offered to this country. These parties have also been ignoring the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. They have failed to heed Israeli ambitions and schemes which target this country's territorial integrity.

As for the Iraqi regime which has begun to support and finance the partitionists after it ended its war with Iran, it has never concealed that its prime objective behind its plots and conspiracies in Lebanon and its slander campaigns against Syria in the Lebanese arena is to obstruct and nullify the pan-Arab role of the Syrian presence not only in Lebanon in particular but also in the Arab arena in general.

Hence, this regime deluded itself into believing that the Arab committee's formation has given it an opportunity to play a double-game and to exert pressures in order to achieve its rancorous objectives against Syria. As the two

parties have actually cooperated to fight Syria's pan-Arab role in the Lebanese arena, they imagined that the Tunis meetings might give them a better chance to swoop down on Syria and undermine its efforts.

Hence, faced with Syria's sincere desire to see the committee exert a serious effort to remedy the Lebanon problem and faced with blind hatred—the primary factor motivating these parties against Syria—the six-member committee held its meetings in Tunis.

It was not hard for the committee to ascertain, once again in its first and initial meetings with the Lebanese parties, that the Lebanese crisis does not lie in Syria's role in Lebanon, as alleged by malicious parties. No, this committee has realized that this crisis lies in the need to bring about a reconciliation which can serve as a prelude for the restoration of national accord and for the enhancement of Lebanon's unity.

When the committee chairman, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, reacted firmly and forcefully against the slander campaigns being launched against Syria, affirming that Syria wants nothing in Lebanon other than seeing it end its crisis and restore its unity and health, the rancorous parties got angry.

Therefore, the Iraqi regime's news media launched a mean campaign against the Kuwaiti minister's statements. The two parties, namely the Saddam regime and the partitionists, voiced great disappointment as the harvest of the committee's Tunis meetings has not been to their liking.

Thus, the committee in particular and the Arabs in general, have become aware, through the Tunis meetings, of the party which is really interested in ending the currently abnormal situation in Lebanon. They have also known the party which is eager to advance the sincere Arab endeavors which seek to tackle the situation in Lebanon in a manner that ensures its security, safety, unity, and the coexistence among its nationals and that also safeguards its Arab identity.

They have also become aware of the parties which seek nothing other than the elimination of the fraternal state's Arab identity and combatting the pan-Arab role of the Syrian presence in that country.

The enemies of Arabism and Lebanese unity have exposed themselves again. Their picture has been uncovered for all Arabs to see. These developments have confirmed once again the indisputable fact which states that there are two enemies opposed to Syria's presence in Lebanon: Israel and its allies, no matter how they change.

Furthermore, all Arabs have once again become certain that the sacrifices being offered by Syria in Lebanon are meant to achieve nothing other than the end of the tribulations being experienced by this fraternal state. The Zionist entity, its allies, and those involved in implementing its schemes against the Arab nation, are the only parties who are benefiting from the continuation of these tribulations.

Papers on Committee's Findings

JN0502084589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 5 Feb 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Arab committee dealing with the Lebanese crisis is serious in its work toward reaching common denominators between the various parties to the dispute. Its chairman, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, has said that Syria is the most responsive toward what is asked of it to save Lebanon from its crisis. This is enough to highlight Syria's principled and firm stand on national and pan-Arab issues.

The paper clarifies that the Arab committee has reached Syria's conviction that there are certain sides working to maintain and deepen the Lebanese crisis in the interest of the Zionist entity.

AL-BA'TH demands the exposure of all those who work against Lebanon, land and people, because their continued existence not only harms Lebanon, but our entire Arab homeland.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH deals with the same topic. It says: The events of 14 years of sacrifice and Syria's stands since its fraternal initiative in 1976, have affirmed that the Syrian salvation epic continues. Opinions about this do not differ and it is unaffected by tensions and attempts to contain it.

The paper also affirms that Syria is fully prepared, under any circumstances, to perform its necessary duties. Its basic goal has been clear and declared since the Syrian forces entered Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Rebels Report Last Soviet Troops Leave Qandahar *BK0802154089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1536 GMT 8 Feb 89*

[Excerpt] Quetta, Pakistan, Feb 8 (AFP)—The last 150 Soviet advisers and soldiers in Qandahar have left the city in southern Afghanistan, Afghan resistance sources here said Wednesday [8 February].

An unidentified general was among the 150 Soviets who left by plane from Qandahar airport over the weekend, the sources said.

They said the Soviet-backed Kabul regime had sent in 200 Afghans trained in various technical fields in the Soviet Union as replacements for the departing Soviet advisers.

Meanwhile, Afghan Government planes have stopped bombing raids on Afghan resistance guerrilla positions in Qandahar Province, the sources said.

They said that mujahidin guerrillas destroyed an ammunition dump at the Qandahar airfield last week causing heavy casualties among government troops.

On Monday, the Afghan Army vacated the Kal Qal'eh district headquarters in western Farah Province and moved to the provincial capital Farah, the sources said, adding that resistance guerrillas have taken control of the district. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Command Asks Civilians To Relocate *LD0702173389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Feb 89*

[Statement issued by the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan; date not given]

[Text] Our compatriots are aware that for some time armed groups have been disrupting the movement of convoys carrying supplies, foodstuffs, and merchandise for the residents of Kabul city and other parts of the country. The armed groups operate in the Mir Bacheh Kowt, Qarah Bagh, Shakar Darreh and Bagram districts, the subdistrict of Kalakan, and the town of Charikar. Using houses and villages located along the Salang highway, they launch surprise attacks, thus halting the delivery of foodstuffs and primary consumer goods to the residents of Kabul and the provinces.

The Armed Forces Supreme Command addresses the faithful people of the districts of Mir Bacheh Kowt, Shakar Darreh, Qarah Bagh and Bagram, and the subdistrict of Kalakan and other villages: Send your elders, dignitaries, and imams—in line with the dignified Shari'a of Muhammad and the Islamic and civil laws of the country—to the armed opposition groups to ask them to stop looting the

convoys of state goods and foodstuffs. If the armed groups refuse to accept the requests of your elders, dignitaries and imams, and they continue looting along highways against the holy religion of Islam and Afghan traditions, the country's Armed Forces will be compelled to take strong measures. Responsibility for the consequences of this action will rest with the armed groups.

Therefore, to prevent the loss of life, the Armed Forces Supreme Command respectfully asks the residents of the villages of Mir Bacheh Kowt, Shakar Darreh, Qarah Bagh and Bagram districts, and Kalakan subdistrict, who reside near the highway to move to a safe place.

Armed Forces Combat Operations 6-7 Feb

*LD0702182489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 7 Feb 89*

[Text] An authorized source from the Armed Forces described the military situation over the last 24 hours to BAKHTAR. Those extremist groups who, using heavy weapons, disrupted security in some areas of the country, faced strikes by the Armed Forces. As a result, more than 150 elements belonging to the extremist groups were killed and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were destroyed or seized by the Armed Forces. Here is a report on the military situation in some provinces in the country:

Parvan: Extremist groups fired heavy weapons on localities around (Tappeh-ye Sorkh). The security forces reciprocated the shelling. As a result, two boxes of machinegun ammunition, two boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition, and two hand grenades were seized. One member of the Armed Forces was martyred and two others were wounded.

Nangarhar: As a result of reciprocal strikes on extremist camps in localities in Shiveh district by the Armed Forces and during mopping-up operations in Qal'eh-ye Hasan and Shagah district of that province, a large number of extremists were killed and four caches of weapons and ammunition belonging to them were destroyed.

Lowgar: Armed extremist groups today fired heavy weapons on residential areas in Lowgar Province but there was no loss of life.

Paktia: As a result of heavy weapons fire by the extremists on Khowst city and some other regions of Paktia Province, 3 local people were martyred and 10 others were wounded.

Qandahar: A number of extremists shelled the surroundings of Qandahar airport with rocket missiles and mortars. There were no casualties. Also as a result of mopping up operations in localities in Daman district, one DShK was seized and eight enemy strongholds were destroyed.

Herat: During heavy weapons fire by the extremists on Herat city, one security official was wounded.

The situation in other provinces in the country is normal.

Mujahidin Council To Meet in Rawalpindi 10 Feb
LD0802115489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] The High Council of the Unified Muslim Afghan Mujahidin, comprising the seven- and eight-party coalitions, yesterday unanimously chose the day after tomorrow, 10 February 1989, as the date for holding the first session of the shura. According to a Central News Unit report from Islamabad, the representatives of the Afghan Muslim mujahidin coalition based in Iran, together with Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, leader of the seven-party coalition who came to Iran, arrived in Islamabad yesterday.

According to this report, the members of the eight-party coalition and the seven-party alliance decided in a joint session to hold the first session of the consultative council to form a provisional government on Friday in Rawalpindi. The report states that in Friday's session, Sibghatullah Mojadeddi is due to present a report to the other members of the seven-party coalition on his trip to Iran and his meetings with the representatives of the Iran-based Muslim mujahidin of Afghanistan.

Informed sources cited said that the mujahidin Muslims based in Iran and Pakistan have arrived at some important agreements on the number of representative candidates in the consultative council and the provisional government of Afghanistan.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud Views Transitional Government
PM0702123389 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
1 Feb 89 p 3

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, mujahidin "head of transitional government," by 'Umar Jastinyah in Peshawar; date not given]

[Text] [Jastinyah] It has been reported that there are some obstacles to completing the shura. Among them, some elements insist on having more seats on the council than those allocated for them. Can you clarify the situation regarding this issue?

[Mas'ud] It is known that the non-Sunni represent only 8 percent of the Afghan population. Despite this, they insist on having more than 25 percent of the seats. I do not know where they got that proportion from. It exceeds what has been allocated for them by the mujahidin leaders. This is open knowledge that we in the seven parties have agreed to allocate a specific percentage for each group because we want to preserve Afghanistan's unity. And although we have allocated them a portion ranging between 8 and 10 percent, they still reject it and insist on doubling the number of their seats—something to which we will not agree.

We have coexisted throughout history without any disputes. This is why we sent a delegation to Iran, lest differences be used to deepen the dispute between us. The delegation's task is to persuade that group that they are entitled to only 8 percent of the shura seats, no more. We have also allocated them 4 out of 28 ministerial positions.

[Jastinyah] On what basis were the ministerial proportions determined?

[Mas'ud] There was a tacit agreement among the seven factions present on the battlefield, out of concern for Afghanistan and also to deny anyone the opportunity to reactivate disputes. Despite this, we have still not reached agreement with them on what we ourselves agreed.

[Jastinyah] So that was Hikmatyar's task in Tehran?

[Mas'ud] Yes. The eight parties outside Pakistan are trying to obtain a higher percentage than that allocated to them, but we did not and will not offer more than that. We are not denying them their right. But what they are demanding is not possible and the majority cannot be convinced.

[Jastinyah] How do you view the measure taken by some states, namely in withdrawing their ambassadors from Kabul, especially in light of reports that these moves reflect fear on the outcome of the mujahidin's assumption of power?

[Mas'ud] These are spiteful allegations. They are made because these states' withdrawal of their ambassadors from Kabul means only one thing. After the Soviets withdraw the agent government will find no one to back it and will have no authority or power to defend itself. So how can it defend other countries' embassies? Thus the withdrawal of their diplomats shows a desire to protect them, nothing else, especially as they are aware of our siege of the city and the fact that the situation in the capital will be unstable to some extent during the transitional period.

As for reports about a civil war among the mujahidin, these are spiteful allegations aimed at fragmenting Muslim ranks. And I emphasize that nothing of this sort will take place. Furthermore, I emphasize that it is the communists of the world who are promoting these rumors in an attempt to justify the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. They claim that a civil war will erupt among the mujahidin groups after the Soviets withdraw. Obviously no one can imagine the Soviets showing us or our people any compassion to the point of fearing a civil war among us. Or else, what sins were committed by the 2 million Afghans martyred on the battlefield?

[Jastinyah] Are all the factions in agreement over specific principles?

[Mas'ud] Once again I confirm that, in principle, we have long been in agreement over the acceptance of and nonopposition to the majority opinion on the shura. So if the shura supports a certain leader or government, that, and nothing else, will be the official decision. We reject the idea of dividing us into hardliners and moderates. That classification is made by our enemies and the enemies of Islam, not by us. There are perhaps some Afghans among our enemies who are enemies of Islam.

[Jastinyah] Is there a proposed formula for the transitional government that will run the country's affairs at the next stage?

[Mas'ud] As you know, I was appointed head of the transitional government when the Afghan mujahidin proclaimed it. The government was then faced with some obstacles. I sent official letters to 67 UN member states, including the Islamic states, but regrettably I received no reply. I also wrote two letters to the United Nations, asking it to observe the legitimate rights stipulated in the UN Charter and to ask them to recognize the provisional government. This was done with the knowledge that 90 percent of Afghanistan's population is loyal to this government. Besides, 85 percent of Afghan territory is now liberated, and the government is supported by seven organizations struggling to eliminate the occupation. Regrettably, I received no response.

At this stage we are concerned with the formation of the shura, which will be endorsed in the first week of February at the latest. A week ago the seven leaders agreed that the government should seek official support from the council.

[Jastinyah] You head the transitional government, but who are the other members, and how will you complete the formation of the government, only 14 of whose ministers have been named?

[Mas'ud] We are in agreement over 28 ministers who represent all seven parties and other as well, including refugees in the United States, Rome, and the Islamic states. Some ministers will be chosen from among Muslims inside Afghanistan. This is regarding the 14 ministers chosen 6 months or so ago. As for the rest, they are in the proposed shura. The seven organizations will name the other government members before official support is sought.

[Jastinyah] Is there any regional coordination to end the problem concerning the other parties' representation in the shura?

[Mas'ud] We have explained to the Pakistani Government the dimensions of the problem and the nature of the historic ties binding all people in Afghanistan. We sought its mediation with Tehran to persuade the leaders of the other eight parties to take part in the council.

[Jastinyah] And what do you expect from these regional efforts?

[Mas'ud] (Sighing and expressing dissatisfaction) I do not know. We have done all we can, lest it be said in the future that we sought no dialogue with the other eight parties.

[Jastinyah] How do you view the present situation in Afghanistan?

[Mas'ud] We are imposing a tight siege on Kabul and Jalalabad, which we will not abandon. The road between the two cities is cut at present, but we are supplying aid to our kinfolk in Afghansitan.

[Jastinyah] Do you expect Kabul to fall shortly?

[Mas'ud] Yes, once the Soviet forces withdraw. That is most likely to take place on the day specified by the Soviet defense minister during his visit to Kabul, when he promised to withdraw on 5 February, a week from now.

Najibullah Addresses Tribal, Militia Commanders
LD0702181889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Esteemed Najibullah, Afghan president and supreme commander of the Afghan Armed Forces, met the commanders of tribal and militia units and companies today at the presidential palace. A few verses from the holy Koran were recited first and then the commanders were introduced to esteemed Najibullah by Major General Nurul Haq 'Uloomi, chief of the Armed Forces department of the PDPA Central Committee.

Addressing the commanders, esteemed Najibullah said: In choosing the policy of national reconciliation we have announced a cease-fire to those who are tired of fratricidal war and understand the humane objectives of the Afghan Government. However, the most extreme sectors of the opposition are not ready to give up their selfish interests or those of their foreign supporters for the sake of the people's interests. They continue to chant slogans to continue the fratricidal war. The past 7 months have revealed that the extremist opposition does not want peace, so we must get ready to defend the people's honor and prestige.

After the complete withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops it will be up to us to accomplish heavier and more responsible duties for the independent defense of our country and homeland. The Afghan president added: With pride and courage it must be said that all combat duties in all provinces are currently being independently carried out by the Army, Sarandoy, state security, and regional and militia forces. You are now on your own feet and are defending your free and beloved homeland. [passage omitted]

209th Pakistani Violation of Geneva Accords Noted
LD0702205989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan's 209th note on Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords was handed over to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] office in Kabul by the Foreign Ministry's liaison office. Comprehensive information was furnished in the note on the dispatch of convoys containing assorted arms by Pakistani military circles for the continuation of fratricide. The mission is requested to investigate the violations mentioned in the note in line with Paragraph 7 of Document 4 of the Geneva accords.

Bangladesh

40-Member Japanese Trade Delegation Arrives
OW0602151489 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT
6 Feb 89

[Text] Dhaka, Feb. 6, KYODO—Trade between Japan and Bangladesh has increased by 21 percent since 1980, the head of a visiting Japanese business delegation said here Monday.

Kikuo Ikeda, president of Nippon Koei Co., one of the world's leading engineering consulting firms, said steady progress has been made on all trade fronts between the two countries.

Ikeda, who is leading a 40-member delegation at a two-day meeting of the Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation, also said exports from Bangladesh to Japan have nearly tripled in volume since 1980.

The committee, formed in 1980 to facilitate expansion of trade and investment between the two countries, last met in 1986. The latest round of talks is the fourth held by the group since it was founded.

Takeo Iguchi, Japan's ambassador to Bangladesh, told the gathering that the rapid appreciation of the yen has opened up great opportunities for Japanese investment in Bangladesh as well as other foreign nations.

Japan's 500 million dollars in credits and grants to Bangladesh this year is the highest among all foreign aid donors, the ambassador said.

The delegation, which arrived here Sunday, will depart Thursday for Singapore after touring southern Chittagong, a district which has enjoyed heavy Japanese investment.

India

Delhi Police Seize Large Quantity of Explosives
BK0602163789 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] There has been a big seizure of explosives in New Delhi. The Southwest District police seized 23 kg of ammonium nitrate explosives, 50 detonators and 102 feet of fuse wire at Rajokri Pahari yesterday. This was done on the basis of disclosures made by the four people arrested last Wednesday. On that occasion, the police had seized 130 kg of ammonium nitrate, 5,908 feet of safety fuse wire and 2,605 detonators.

Police say that the terrorist link cannot be ruled out. Similar explosives had been used by the terrorists in the transistor bomb explosions in 1986 in New Delhi and in bomb explosion in Faridabad.

Security Forces Seize Heroin at Pakistan Border
BK0702031889 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] In Punjab, the Border Security Force [BSF] seized 53 packets of heroin worth 53 crore rupees in (Bop Mohandiwalla) in Ferozepur District on Sunday [5 February]. An official press release said that BSF intercepted a gang of three smugglers at the Pakistan border. When challenged, they went back discarding the heroin packets.

Japan Agrees To Increase Economic Assistance
OW0402130389 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT
4 Feb 89

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 4 (KYODO)—Japan has agreed to continue and expand its economic assistance to India, a Japanese Governmental economic mission said Saturday.

The mission led by Kiyoaki Kikuchi, special assistant at the Foreign Ministry, held talks with Indian Government officials this week on Japan's economic aid to India.

Japan's yen loans to India totaled about 950 billion yen by 1988, the second largest next to those extended to Indonesia.

This year's yen loan is about 93.4 billion yen to be used for power plant construction, irrigation works and other as well as 3 billion yen in grant aid.

Japan is the largest aid supplier for India since 1987. India is also the fifth largest recipient of Japan's official development assistance (ODA).

Minister Inaugurates GDR Commission Meeting
BK0702032289 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The industry minister, Mr Vengala Rao, has called for increased industrial collaboration, investment, and two-way trade between India and the German Democratic Republic. He was inaugurating the India-GDR joint commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation in New Delhi.

Prospects of collaboration in electronic goods, computer software, chemical, and engineering industries were discussed at the meeting. Both sides agreed to expand cooperation in industry and trade.

The Indian side was led by the industry minister, Mr Vengala Rao, while the deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, Mr Horst Soelle, headed the six-member GDR delegation. Mr Soelle also called on the planning minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki.

Protocol on Aviation, Industry Signed With USSR
BK0602162389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] India and the Soviet Union signed a protocol in New Delhi today to create cooperation between the two countries in the field of aviation and industry. The protocol was signed at the end of high level discussions between the two countries.

The Soviet delegation was led by the minister for aviation and industry, Mr A.S. Systsov, and the Indian side was headed by the minister of state for defense, Mr Chintamani Panigrahi.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Said To Escape Assassination
TA0802170889 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom
Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] We have learned that in the 1st week of this month [Persian or Gregorian not specified], Hashemi-Rafsanjani escaped an assassination attempt in Tehran, but his driver was killed. Informed persons in Tehran say that this assassination attempt was carried out on the order of 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and with the approval of Ahmad Khomeyni.

It is worth noting that this is the fourth time that Hashemi-Rafsanjani has survived an attempt on his life.

Khomeyni Grants Amnesty to All Party Members
LD0802104989 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT
8 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni today agreed to a request by the Minister of Information Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reyshahri to grant general amnesty to all members of political parties in Iranian jails.

Security Minister on Stability, Amnesty
LD0802120389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has approved the intelligence minister's proposal for a general amnesty for prisoners who are members of grouplets. The text of the imam of the ummah's reply to Intelligence Minister Reyshahri is as follows:

In His exalted name. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri, esteemed intelligence minister. May your blessings continue. I agree with your proposal to grant a general amnesty to imprisoned members of grouplets, and I hope that the respected families of these prisoners will advise their children not to take actions which will cause them and their families renewed distress. God willing, the officials of the Islamic system will deal with them with kindness and in a brotherly manner and will assist them by providing employment facilities. I beg Almighty God to show the paths of guidance and correctness to all. May God's peace be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 19 Bahman 1367
[8 February 1989]

The text of the letter of Intelligence Minister Reyshahri to the imam of the ummah is as follows:

After presenting my greetings, let me inform you of the following: In view of the complete and continuously increasing [as heard] stability in the Islamic Republic that we are witnessing on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution; and in view of the ideological and psychological deadlock of the counterrevolutionary grouplets—which has placed them on the threshold of total destruction, in accordance with the will of Almighty God—there is no longer any danger threatening the revolution from this direction.

Therefore, the Intelligence Ministry proposes that all imprisoned members of the grouplets, no matter at what stage of the judicial process their cases are presently, be granted a general amnesty by Your Eminence so that they can get on with rebuilding themselves mentally and practically, under the shadow of divine grace and mercy and by benefiting from the gifts offered to them by the Islamic Republic and the opportunities that will be given to them.

It is worth mentioning that 900 of those who werehave been directly implicated in in crimes and mischiefs are exempted from this [amnesty].

I ask Almighty God to grant greatness and loftiness to the Islamic Revolution and long life to Your Eminence.

'Bad Weather' Forces Velayati Stopover in UK
*LD0702144889 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT
7 Feb 89*

[Text] London, Feb. 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on his way to Madrid was forced by bad weather to break his journey at the British capital around noon Tuesday.

Velayati and his nine-man delegation will now fly to Madrid Wednesday on a two-day official visit at the invitation of the Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez.

A press spokesman for the Iranian Embassy here said Velayati's unexpected stop-over in the British capital would last until Wednesday morning.

The Iranian foreign minister is not scheduled to hold any meeting in London, he added.

On February 9, Velayati is to leave Madrid for New York to hold talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on ways of implementing U.N. Resolution 598.

Meets With UK's Howe
*NC0802071089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 7 Feb 89*

[Telephone report by Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent 'Abdol Rashidi from London—recorded]

[Text] Our foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, met with Geoffrey Howe, Britain's secretary of state for foreign affairs, in London last night. During this meeting, which was held at Geoffrey Howe's request and took place at the British Foreign Office, Dr Velayati explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on international issues, and the process of the implementation of Resolution 598 and Iraq's obstructionism in that regard. He discussed the need for the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops to the international borders, and the need to respect the 1975 [Algiers] pact.

During this meeting, British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe expressed support for the UN secretary general's efforts in relation with the solution of the Iran-Iraq war, and announced his country's readiness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

International developments and psitcularly the situations in Afghanistan and in Lebanon were also discussed during the visit.

Referring to his recent meetings with the heads of the Afghan mujahidin, our foreign minister stated that the Afghan Muslims are determined to continue their struggle until a government backed by the majority of Afghan Muslims is formed.

The British foreign secretary also pointed to the need for the end of the Najibullah regime in Kabul, and called for an end to the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

On issues relating to Lebanon, our foreign minister referred to the sensitive situation in that country and described the respect for the view of the majority of the Lebanese people in choosing a government as an important factor leading to that country's political stability.

The British foreign secretary expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic's efforts in overcoming the differences between the various Lebanese Shi'ite groups for the sake of the unity of Lebanon.

The foreign ministers of Iran and Britain also discussed current and future relations between the two countries.

At the end of this meeting, our foreign minister told correspondents that the issue of all the hostages, including the Iranian hostages, in Lebanon, and the need for their release, irrespective of their nationalities, was also discussed.

Hostage Issue Discussed
*LD0702210489 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 2019 GMT 7 feb 89*

[By Tom McMullan, PRESS ASSOCIATION diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Britain and Iran should try to secure the release of hostages from Lebanon, the Iranian foreign minister said tonight.

Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati was speaking after talks in London with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe.

He said the hostages were not specifically discussed but he noted that Britain and Iran had already asked each other for help in securing the release of their respective hostages.

"All of us should try for the release of each other's hostages, irrespective of nationality," he added.

According to British officials, no new information was forthcoming about Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, television journalist Mr John Mccarthy, and Belfast teacher Mr Brian Keenan, all held in Beirut.

Iran has already asked for help in tracing four Iranians who disappeared in Lebanon some years ago.

Sir Geoffrey expressed concern about the position of Mr Roger Cooper, 53, the British businessman and journalist, held in Iran for three years accused of espionage. The Iranian interior minister has said that Mr Cooper will be punished under Islamic law.

The talks also covered developments in Afghanistan and Lebanon, and the prospects of improving trading contacts between Britain and Iran.

Khamene'i Delivers Message on Air Force Day
NC0802092089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0600 GMT 8 Feb 89

[From the "Voice of the Front" feature: remarks by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, on the occasion of Air Force Day; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Many greetings to the brave and dear martyrs of the Air Force and to all the martyrs of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I congratulate you, dear personnel of the Air Force, on 19 Bahman [8 February].

This day in 1979 was the day on which the first collective allegiance to the imam was made by the great Iranian army. This was one of your glories. World observers, especially those who had made immense investments in the Iranian Army in a bid to influence it with the culture that they wanted, probably could not believe how a group of military personnel could so bravely express their unity with the nation and with the revolution, despite the strong fence of terror and propaganda that had been set up by the despotic regime at that time—even before any signs of victory were visible. I will always remember that day. [passage omitted]

The enemy did not want the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution to have an army. Instead it wanted to create an atmosphere that would pave the way toward the dissolution of the Armed Forces. The imam was the first person to resist this plot. The Armed Forces and its organization were safeguarded and began to serve the revolution. But the plots did not end. Various plots for the dissolution of the Armed Forces have been and are being hatched. What is considered to be the major guarantee for the continuation of the pious Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic in the face of these dastardly machinations is the alertness of you people, the pious personnel of the Armed Forces.

You should always consider yourselves as part of your revolution and your revolution as part of you, and you have shown that you do so. The major difference between this army and the former Iranian army is that the latter worked for an individual and you are working for God and the lofty ideals of Islam and the revolution. If you die and are martyred, it is in pursuit of this path; and if you remain, you live proudly with this ideal. This is something that not many armies in the world have. [passage omitted]

The true enemies of the Armed Forces within the army are those who are trying to weaken the morale of the army, create pessimism among the devoted and committed personnel about the future of the revolution, and weaken the strong pillars of faith among the pious and devoted personnel. Before being the enemies of the revolution, they are the enemies of the Armed Forces. This revolution emerged victorious without the Armed Forces. The fighting spirit of each revolution lies within itself. The revolution cannot be defeated by any of these attempts.

What is harmed by this propaganda is the immense, equipped, and popular organization of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic. Today any plot, any incorrect remark, or any rumor spread by the despised enemies of the Islamic revolution in any corner of society, namely in the Armed Forces, actually brings out enmity in that very sector from which such remarks and rumors rise. [sentence as heard]

My tidings to you, dear brothers who have gathered here today to mark that auspicious and glorious memory, are that the future of the Armed Forces and the Air Force of the Islamic Republic is extremely bright and glorious. [crowd chants] You, dear military personnel, and especially the youths who are so gladly and zealously treading this path, should know that a very bright and good future awaits you, the Armed Forces, and your revolution. [crowd chants]

You have disappointed the enemy and instilled hope in your friends; and this is the greatest glory before God. The nation loves you. You are devotedly serving the nation. Today the enemy, yes, even your enemy, respects you. The very world that spreads rumors against you, against the revolution, and against this nation, respects this nation and the pious and brave fighters of this nation, because they are an army and a nation standing on their own two feet, independently, without relying on others.

I hope that the eve of this anniversary will be the eve of more progress and more glory for us. [crowd chants]

May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Majlis Speaker Meets With Air Force Commander
LD0702174189 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT
7 Feb 89

["Hashemi-Rafsanjani Lauds Air Force Role in Revolution's Victory"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—The former regime in hand with the Americans had made substantial investments in the Air Force and never expected that the most fatal blow to its existence would come from this very force, said Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today.

To mark the 19th of Bahman (Feb 9), the day the Air Force swore allegiance to Imam Khomeini denouncing the shah's regime, Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces received a group of Air Force personnel led by Commander Brig [title as received] Mansur Sattari.

Terming as "treacherous" the abrogation of international agreements by Shahpur Bakhtiar (shah's last premier), he said if they were not cancelled, global arrogance especially the United States would be under much more pressure at international tribunals.

Bakhtiar's cancellation of important agreements, said Hashemi-Rafsanjani including those of benefit to the Air Force proved his role as an imperialist agent.

Towards the end of the meeting, the speaker stressed strengthening of the Air Force and called on the Commander Sattari to exercise readiness "because our alertness is the best form of defence."

The Air Force commander presented a report to the wartime supremo during the meeting.

Khamene'i Meets Fadlallah, Syrian Minister
*LD0702071789 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT
7 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Monday received the Lebanese Muslim leader Allamah Seyyed Muhammad Fadlallah who lauded the recent agreement on cessation of hostilities between Amal and Hizballah reached through the mediation of Iran and Syria.

Khamene'i reiterated the importance of the Muslim role in Lebanon to confront the Zionist forces threatening the unity of the country.

Visiting Syrian Minister of Islamic Endowments 'Abd al-Majid Tarabulsi Monday conveyed a congratulatory message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution to 'Ali Khamene'i. The two men reviewed the Palestinian problem and President Khamene'i said Syria was the only Arab country which paid great attention to the Palestinian issue. They also discussed Syrian-Iranian ties.

Government Revises Policy Towards Lebanon
*WA0802172590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
18 Dec 88 p 3*

[Article by M. Firozi: "Tehran Revises Its Foreign Policy in Lebanon"]

[Text] Although the armed clashes between Amal and the Hizballah in south Beirut have come to a halt during the past few days, this does not mean that lasting peace and unity have been established between the two Shi'ite Moslem groups in this war-torn country.

Recent clashes were in fact the third round of encounters between the two Lebanese groups. The first clashes broke out last April after a U.S. colonel and a member of the UN Peace-Keeping Forces, Higgins, was kidnapped in southern Lebanon. Amal officials blamed Hizballah for kidnapping Higgins, claiming that he has been taken hostage after holding talks with Amal authorities. They considered the move an invasion of the territory they maintained control over. The consequence of such disputes was a bloody 4-day clash which claimed 62 lives and injured 150.

During these bloody encounters, Amal forces spear-headed by Dawud Dawud succeeded in marshalling forces for a push into parts of the southern suburbs of Lebanon. Such a victory for Amal forces caused great dismay and was seen as a defeat for the Hizballah Shi'ite group. The Amal's new move had contained and limited Hizballah's guerrilla and defensive activities against the Israeli forces in the southern regions.

Three months later, minor conflicts and disputes between the two groups were turned into severe clashes in southern Beirut, with the difference that this time Hizballah emerged victorious from the conflicts. During these fresh clashes, Hizballah forces succeeded in maintaining their control over new positions and strongholds in the southern suburbs of Beirut.

The clashes, however, were snuffed out with the mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the depletion [as published] of Syrian forces in southern Beirut to establish peace, security, and calm in this war-ravaged area.

The bloody clashes, however, were once again fomented and erupted last August when three councillors of Lebanese Leader of the Pro-Syrian Amal Militia Nabi Barri were mysteriously assassinated; again, Amal authorities charged Hizballah with carrying out the act of terrorism.

In another case, about 2 months ago, four top leaders of the Hizballah Movement—Subhi Tufayli, 'Abbas Musawi, Hasan Nasrallah, and Ibrahim al-Amin—miraculously escaped an attempt made upon their lives. Thus basic grounds were again laid for the eruption of another conflict and dispute. However, this time Amal leaders called on their advocates not to indulge in any dispute and did not charge Hizballah with plotting the violence.

The latest disputes seem to have been quelled with the mediation of Syria and Iran. The latter mediator countries believe that the continuation of the clashes between the two Shi'ite groups is not in the interest of the Moslem wing in the present political condition in this country.

Iran's key role in containing the unwarranted clashes and patching up differences between the Amal and Hizballah groups should not be ignored. Some political circles have spread the word that Iran is an advocate of Hizballah, and Syria, a supporter of the Amal Movement. Recent

developments, however, show that Tehran is reconsidering its foreign policy exercised in Lebanon. Although the fact cannot be denied that Iran prefers Hizballah to other groups in Lebanon, because of its ideological coordination and harmony, it does not intend in any way whatsoever to shoulder all the responsibilities of this wing in this country.

Recent steps taken by the officials of the Islamic Republic in Lebanon, including appointing a new Iranian ambassador in this country and inviting different Lebanese Moslem groups to visit Tehran, are all indicative of Tehran's new move to adopt a new foreign policy in Lebanon.

During the last 2 months, some top Lebanese Islamic leaders (including 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din) have visited Tehran. The long stay of Shaykh Shams al-Din, head of the Supreme Shi'ite Council in Tehran, has prompted the idea in political circles that Iran is going to play the role of a mediator or a "chieftain" among the Islamic groups in Lebanon, especially the two Shi'ite wings.

Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din, who is pro-Amal, is striving in Tehran to convince Iranian officials that Iran's political and financial support for a special group in Lebanon is not in its interest in the long run. He is also trying to convey to them the idea that the hostage-taking issue and its continuation have been a great threat to the Islamic Republic's credit.

Cypriot Minister Iakovou Meets With Musavi
*LD0702110689 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT
7 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Prime Minister Husayn Musavi reiterated Iran's "rational and fair" stand towards the Cyprus problem and said it was high time that the long outstanding issue be peacefully resolved.

Musavi made the remarks in a meeting Tuesday with Cypriot Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou currently here on an official visit.

Referring to "some positive views" of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal towards the Cyprus problem, Musavi said the tense atmosphere of the past was subdued and hopes for solving the dispute have increased.

The Greek and Turkish communities of the island, divided since 1974 into a Greek south and Turkish north, last year began U.N.-sponsored talks aimed at unifying Cyprus.

Musavi hoped that a just solution would be found which could preserve the interests of both the majority Greek Christian and the minority Turkish Muslim community, leading to the creation of a prosperous society in Cyprus.

Iakovou briefed Musavi on the results of his talks here and on the latest political developments in his country. He also announced his government's willingness to expand ties with Iran.

He said the Cypriot Government has put forward rational proposals to solve the 15-year old problem.

In 1983 the Turkish Cypriot community declared its own independent "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," which is only recognized by Ankara.

Iakovou thanked Iranian officials for the warm welcome he received here and submitted proposals to the prime minister on the expansion of commercial and economic ties between the two countries.

Concludes Visit, Departs

*LD0702134989 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT
7 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Cypriot Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou and concluded his three-day visit and left here today.

At the end of the visit the two countries inked a letter of understanding for cooperation in economic, oil and consular affairs. The Cypriot commerce minister is to lead a delegation to Iran in the near future to follow up the letter.

During his stay, Iakovou and his delegation held talks with senior Iranian officials on mutual relations.

Report on Mohtashemi 26 Jan News Conference
*PM0702102989 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
26 Jan 89 p 18*

[Report on Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi's 26 January news conference—place not given]

[Text] The minister started the press conference by outlining his ministry's activities. He said the success of the Islamic revolution over the puppet Pahlavi regime, the planning and formation of the Islamic regime, the popular nature of the Islamic regime, and the system of the rule of the jurisconsult are the revolution's most important achievements.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi added that another major achievement of the Islamic revolution is the formation of Islamic councils. He said: People from all corners of the country, from large cities to the most remote areas, will be served by the Islamic councils; the council system will be nationwide. So far, he said, there are 350,000 council members in the country.

The interior minister then talked about holding elections for these councils, choosing representatives, and sending 24 provincial members to Tehran to form a supreme

council. He added: The representatives of these councils will have a great deal of power. They will be able to make proposals directly to the Majlis.

The minister said that another special point of the revolution was that it defied foreigners and their control, thus gaining complete political freedom. He said: We also have taken great steps in this country toward economic independence.

He added that support for the oppressed in Iran and throughout the world was another of the revolution's specialities and announced that Iran is against any form of control, imposed from within or without. He said: The spirit of the revolution is against oppression and capitalists.

The interior minister said that the formation of revolutionary organizations following the revolution was another speciality of the Islamic revolution, as is support for freedom movements throughout the world. He said: We are not an isolated revolution, imprisoned within our borders. We support other Islamic movements in other countries. These include the Afghan mujahidin, Iraqis, Palestinians, and Lebanese. We feel a responsibility to support these movements.

In another part of the news conference, the minister commented on Iraqi refugees: At the moment, we have about 1 million Iraqi refugees in this country who, contrary to what is printed in the hostile foreign press, receive our complete support. They have many facilities at their disposal. Any Iraqi refugee who asks receives a 1-year visa and residence permit. All refugees get a green card enabling them to use banking facilities, as well as to buy and sell anywhere in the country. With these cards, they get medical help, and ration cards for foodstuffs. They also are able to apply to schools and universities.

The minister then decried his ministry's work as "motherly," a strategic ministry that provides for the activities of other government bodies. He added: We made some basic changes in the country's law enforcement agencies and brought new blood into these agencies. We also made efforts against smugglers and law breakers in all parts of the country.

He said other Interior Ministry activities included supervision of guilds, plans to implement a political census in the country, plans to allow the country's youth to use available cultural facilities, and combating corruption, immorality, prostitution, and the wearing of improper clothing.

Mohtashemi added: We have implemented a special frontier policy to be completed in the next 5 years. According to this plan, some 8,000 km of the Iranian frontier will be paved, which is part of a plan for a more secure border.

He said another Interior Ministry duty was to provide details on the 4 million foreigners who live in Iran. He said this information is now on computer. He concluded by commenting on the program to change everyone's birth certificate. In the next 2 or 3 years, every Iranian will have an Islamic revolution birth certificate.

The interior minister then answered a question from Austrian radio on the number of Iranians held hostage by the Phalangists in Lebanon. He said: Five Iranians have been kidnapped by the Phalangists. They are all diplomats. One of them is the charge d'affaires in Lebanon. We would appreciate any country's help in this matter.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi then answered a question from THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent regarding a letter from President George Bush on the normalization of ties between Iran and the United States and resolution of the U.S. hostage issue. The interior minister said: I have no knowledge of the George Bush letter.

THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent continued: You recently said there is need for another revolution to gain the sympathy of the Iranian people. Because many Iranian here and abroad do not speak their minds and because your press is not free, are you in favor of a free society or the present system?

The interior minister replied: Our people are not afraid of the regime or the government. Those who have fled the country and who have fallen into the lap of the United States are afraid of this government and this regime. I, as interior minister, will deal sternly with anyone or any group that wants to act against the revolution or the interests of the Iranian people.

Our people also expect stern treatment of those who commit treason. People in Iran are free. They fear no one but God, and this is an insult to the Iranians.

With regard to an open society, we believe people should have political freedom. The Majlis elections and the implementation of the law dealing with political parties are examples of political freedoms in this country.

The interior minister answered a question from the ABRAR correspondent: With regard to the [breakaway] militant clergy, I am a member, but whatever this group has to say, it has to be said by its spokesman. Any group—the militant clergy or the society of the militant clergy—if it wants to pursue political activity, it must have prior permission from the Interior Ministry.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi continued the news conference by commenting on Engineer Bazargan, the leader of the freedom movement, who recently granted an interview: This interview proves there is freedom in our country. This person, who was part of an organization that did all those improper things during and after the

provisional government, someone not well regarded by the people gives an interview which is broadcast. This is the best proof that freedom exists.

The TEHRAN TIMES reporter asked: What do you think are the main reasons Iran has not managed to arrange a cease-fire between Amal and Hizballah in Lebanon?

The interior minister replied: If two groups accept the words of the mediator, then the mediator can resolve the problem and arrange a cease-fire. I feel Hizballah believes in the Iranian revolution and regime and listens to us. This is not the case with Amal; they do not listen. This is why Iran's efforts have not been too successful. Of course, we hope they will be successful in the future.

The reporter from Japan's ASAHI SHIMBUN asked: Will the Islamic councils have to get permission from the Interior Ministry to carry on with their activity?

The minister stated: They are part of the law dealing with political parties, but they do not function as a political party. Their activities will be ideological and cultural. If they want to function as a political party, they must get permission like any other political party.

The correspondent from the Spanish news agency asked: Iranian officials have announced many times that the condition for establishing ties with the United States would be that country's noninterference in Iranian affairs. If the United States agrees, will you establish ties?

The interior minister said: A wolf is a wolf, even though he may be in sheep's clothing. Of course, my words are not aimed at the American people because they too are prisoners of their own regime.

The correspondent from Japan's MAINICHI newspaper asked: What are your views on the social and economic problems of the Iranian people after the war? How can they be solved?

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi said: Because we believe in independence in all areas, we do have some problems in terms of economic and social issues. We have been at war for 8 years; therefore, it is normal that we should have some problems. Of course, our people are tolerant and plans yet to be implemented will solve these problems.

The correspondent from Japan's KYODO news agency asked: How do you feel about changing the Constitution, particularly with regard to merging the two posts of president and prime minister?

The interior minister replied: Additions to the Constitution have been discussed from the beginning. In any case, every law requires changes, including the Constitution, where items have to be corrected or added.

With regard to your second question, there are no such plans. There is no plan to do anything like that.

Mohtashemi answered another question posed by the same correspondent on the responsibilities of the Intelligence and Interior Ministries: The Intelligence Ministry acts like the regime's eyes in the country's organizational systems. It is a member of the Security Council which is headed by the interior minister. It works equally for the security forces, intelligence, and judicial offices.

The interior minister then answered a question from the RESALAT reporter who asked about an article in AL-SHIRA' magazine that said the Iranian Interior Ministry was responsible for the clashes in Lebanon. He said: I strongly deny that they are blaming the Interior Ministry for the clashes in Lebanon involving Amal and Hizballah.

The BBC television reporter asked: How can the British Government trust Iran while a British citizen, Roger Cooper, sits in your jails for 3 years without a trial?

The minister replied: How can we trust countries that meddle into our internal affairs and send spies into our country? If they want trust, they must not interfere in our domestic affairs and they must not send spies.

The Cooper issue is quite clear. He has confessed. He will be put on trial according to our laws.

IRNA's correspondent asked: More international drug smugglers will be executed within the next few days. Is executing them the only way to fight smugglers?

The minister said: No, execution is not the only solution, but it is one solution. We may see some more smugglers executed during the next few days.

The reporter from Japan's SANKEI newspaper asked: Has the Islamic Republic Party asked to become politically active? If not, what is the reason?

Mohtashemi said: So far it has not asked and you can query those who were its members and leaders about this.

The minister then answered a question posed by the reporter from Japan's MAINICHI newspaper on the number of political parties seeking permission to become active. He replied: So far, 36 groups have asked permission. One is leftist communist with Marxist ideology. About 15 to 16 are those who were active in the past and have again asked permission.

The next question was asked by a journalist from Swiss television concerning the number of executions after the cease-fire in the war. Mohtashemi said: There is no clear number. Some died in the fighting during the Mersad operations. Some were executed after the operations. They themselves took some of the bodies out of the area of

operations. Some bodies were burned so no one could give an exact figure on the dead among the counterrevolutionaries and Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization].

IRNA Notes Criticism of Interior Minister

LD0802092889 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT
8 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—No visit by a foreign official to Iran has been engulfed in so much controversy as that of Roland Dumas' two-day official visit this week.

This fact can be inferred by a glance over Iranian press coverage and commentaries and statements made by Iranian officials.

The English-language TEHRAN TIMES Wednesday took the country's Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi to task for criticising Dumas' visit.

"For what reason do we want relations with France which not only was an accomplice in Saddam's (Husayn) war crimes but also did not spare any effort to eliminate the Islamic Republic," Mohtashemi had questioned.

TEHRAN TIMES in an editorial warned that a "a revolution's foreign policy should not become an area for political jousting by irresponsible people. If not prevented such joustings will only undermine international confidence in our moves."

The paper recalled that when Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati offered to resign some months ago, Imam Khomeini personally intervened and asked him to stay on.

Velayati said Iran and France have decided to "forget the past and instead think of expanding mutual ties in the future."

"It is also to be remembered that before Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, at a time when Mr. Mohtashemi was recommending a '20-year war strategy' to the Foreign Ministry, the imam called on the cabinet ministers not to intervene in one another's lines of activity," the paper said.

The other English-language daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, underlining that the press coverage here of the French foreign minister's visit has been "pronouncedly negative", repeated the call that Paris "should demonstrate with concrete positive actions that it is remorseful of its past disgraceful deeds."

Papers Comment on French Foreign Minister's Visit
LD0702103289 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—An Iranian morning daily Tuesday severely condemned French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas for raising the issue of alleged human rights abuses in Iran during his talks with Iranian officials.

"The French Government must be very shameless that after all its investments in terrorist groups and facilities to the Monafeqin (the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation) and criminals whose hands are smeared with the blood of Iranian women, men and even children in the streets and markets, has the courage to talk about human rights with Iranian officials," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in an editorial.

Dumas ended a 2-day official visit Monday, the first by a French foreign minister to the Islamic Republic of Iran, aimed at improving ties after a decade of bad relations.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the Paris government's support for Iranian anti-revolutionary groups was discussed with Dumas and expressed hope that the matter would somehow be solved in the future.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said "France, on account of its unlimited support to the Monafeqin, is recognized as an accomplice to the crimes of the terrorists," and added that the "Socialists of France should be put on trial."

"How can they justify these human rights violations?" it questioned, and said Dumas ridiculed himself by raising the issue in Tehran.

"It may be a custom in the West that when officials travel to an independent country they raise the issue of human rights as a propaganda ploy, but this does not befit France, a cradle of terrorists and murderers," the paper commented.

It saw the pressure of French industrialists and business circles as the motive behind the Paris Socialist government's eagerness to expand ties with Tehran.

The daily said Iran could dispense with French technology and seek it in other countries which respect the Islamic revolution and the Iranian nation. Before his departure from the Iranian capital, Dumas described his talks here as "very fruitful" and said the two countries signed contracts linked with auto industries, oil and production of metro railways equipment.

Meanwhile, expressing a somewhat conciliatory tone the English-language TEHRAN TIMES said the visit of the French foreign minister would help to promote bilateral ties.

"The visit has done enough, it may be said, to create the impression that future Tehran-Paris ties appear to be promising," the daily said.

It said that France could display its goodwill by breaking the Western-imposed arms embargo on Iran and help establish political balance in the region.

Paper Assails France for 'Inciting' Terrorists
*LD0802110889 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT
8 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—An Iranian morning daily Wednesday [8 February] assailed France for "inciting" and "using" Iranian counterrevolutionary groups based in France in its relations with Iran.

Referring to the attack on Iran Air offices in Paris Monday by a monafeqin [hypocrite] group (the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation), at the time when the French foreign minister was in Tehran, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the French Government was "in futility imagining" that it could use the monafeqin terrorist groups as "tamed elements" in its relations with Iran.

"The fact is that these groups are a big stain on France's forehead," the daily underlined. It said that it was not in France's or any other country's interests to use such "disgraceful political and propaganda games."

In an editorial mainly linked with the achievements and the future of the ten-year old Islamic revolution, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the arrogant world has realised that it was not in its interest to "challenge Islam" because it ends in its own disgrace.

Foreign governments now were interested in building the best relations with Iran, but the Iranian authorities were the ones to decide the frame of such relations, it said.

"At the threshold of the second decade of the revolution the nation is paving the way towards the future with firmness and exceptional abundance of experience. We have learned to continue on the ups and downs of the unpaved path of the revolution with gratitude, unity in action and increased resistance to disappoint the enemies of Islam," the daily concluded.

Editorial Urges Japan To 'Review' Policy
*WA0802172189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
14 Dec 88 p 2*

[Unattributed editorial]

[Text] Japan, influenced by the U.S. stance toward the Islamic Republic, had, in the final years of the Iraqi war against Iran, joined the embargo against us. Tokyo had also reduced its oil purchases from Iran to a minimum.

At present, too, it is a fact that Japan's Iran policy is bereft of positive and encouraging signs and this is worrisome as far as future relations are concerned.

On a number of occasions that could have been otherwise exploited, Japan had failed to come up with an active diplomacy regarding the Islamic Republic.

This passive diplomacy has persisted even after Iran accepted UN Resolution 598 last July, leading to a slump in the two nations' bilateral trade.

Japan has, for instance, failed to give affirmative answers on its future course of action vis-a-vis a number of joint ventures it has undertaken with Iran. A particular point in case is the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Complex. Another pending project is the Bandar-e 'Abbas Refinery; and there are others.

For a fact, however, we will be needing technology transfer and contracts on credit in a large part of our reconstruction projects and in activating many of our infrastructural industries. It is against this background that the two nations can have very fruitful cooperation. But the current trend of affairs underscores the illogic of the Japanese pursuance of American-orchestrated moves. It will not be long before the negative impact of Tokyo's passive policies comes to light. The least they can do is impede the expansion of ties between the two capitals.

It may be that it is such policies on the part of Japan that are giving the Eastern Bloc, as well as Tokyo's economic rivals in the West, an opportunity to move in and bid in Iran's huge reconstruction drives. In other words, billions of dollars worth of trade may be at stake.

Not a few in Iran believe that Japan can get the lion's share of reconstruction drives here, once it adopts more reasonable policies. The two factors that give Japan a better footing are the traditionally good ties between the two nations and Japan's nonadoption of a hostile policy in the course of the war.

As such, to some extent at least, Japan can be even viewed as a development model by Iran. It is on these considerations that it sounds a fairly good idea to suggest that Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita tour Tehran in his coming Middle East journey. Such a visit will certainly compensate for the effects of recent negative policies, such as Japan's joining the club signing the recent UN resolution on Iran's alleged human rights violations.

Opposition Asks Italian Officials for Protection
*AU0402141489 Rome ANSA in English 1040 GMT
4 Feb 89*

[Text] (ANSA) Perugia, February 4—Members of the Iranian opposition resident in Italy have asked Italian officials to provide them with protection against aggression by pro-Khomeyni students.

The appeal was made during a press conference here, site of a university for foreign students, by Hoseyn Naghdi [name as received] who from 1980 to 1981 served as the Iranian ambassador to Rome and who currently represents the Italian resistance to the Khomeyni regime. He said that democratic-minded Iranian students in exile lived in a climate of tension and fear.

The press conference concided with the filing of charges on the part of Iranians who on February first were allegedly attacked in Perugia by a group of pro-Khomeyni students. Naghdi said the attack of democratic Iranians in this city only showed that the present regime in Tehran was weak and about to collapse.

He also claimed that mass executions by firing squad of political prisoners was currently underway in Iran. He said that more than 12,000 members of the opposition were shot between August and December of last year.

PDPA Role in Future Afghan Regime Predicted

*LD0502133089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1103 GMT 5 Feb 89*

[Political commentary]

[Text] Following the recent visit by Foreign Minister Velayati to Islamabad, political efforts, as expected, assumed a new dimension in finding a peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue. The timing of the visit coincided with the final pullout of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and confirms the efforts being made to bring about an agreement between the mujahidin stationed in Iran and Pakistan.

Following the important visit of the Iranian foreign minister to Pakistan and the adoption of a united position by the two countries regarding Afghanistan—which could have been foreseen due to commonly held views—a more hopeful outlook can be envisioned for the future of Afghanistan. This issue has entered a new stage in view of the opposition of both Tehran and Islamabad to any foreign interference in Afghanistan's domestic issues.

Observers have evaluated positively the current visit of Prof Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, the spokesman for the seven-party mujahidin coalition, and his discussions with the members of the eight-party coalition council in Tehran which are being carried out with the aim of reaching an agreement on the mujahidin's forming a consultative council, particularly as in these discussions the unity of all the Muslim fighting forces of Afghanistan has been emphasized.

Although in the view of many diplomats the formation of a consultative council provides a suitable opportunity for a peaceful transfer of power after the withdrawal of Soviet forces and the end the war which has left behind more than 1 million dead, nevertheless, it is necessary to point out that the formation of the council is not connected with any country and that the Afghan mujahidin should reach a decision themselves on this issue.

These efforts are aimed at greater unity of views among the mujahidin for the establishment of an independent and powerful government in the neighboring Muslim country of Afghanistan carried out in conditions in which less than 4 days [as heard] remain for the withdrawal of the last group of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

At the same time, the simultaneous presence of Eduard Shevardnadze in Islamabad and his first deputy in Tehran show that Moscow's diplomatic efforts have widened according to observers and the aim of these visits is to discuss and exchange opinions regarding peaceful means to resolve the Afghan issue. They have given rise to some hope in the region because after a decade of occupying Afghanistan, the Soviet Union now accepts that the future of that country depends on the Afghans and that no country has the right to interfere in this matter.

The visits of high-ranking Soviet officials to the region are taking place only 6 days before the mujahidin are to hold an important meeting called the consultative council for the formation of a provisional government. In this connection, Moscow is insisting that Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan should also participate in that council and in a government which is to be formed of all groups.

According to political observers, although the mujahidin have refrained from giving any role to the PDPA in the future of Afghanistan, it seems that the participation of Afghans who are connected with the regime in Kabul in that council is probable. In the past, some mujahidin leaders have not ruled out the participation of Afghans who have not been forced to collaborate with the present regime in Kabul, those who cooperated with the mujahidin, and in general any noncommunist elements in the future government.

In any case, it is expected that with a unanimity of views among all Muslim fighting groups in Afghanistan a government based on the views and will of the Muslim Afghan nation will be formed immediately after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country. Relying on the experiences which the mujahidin have gained as the result of many years of struggle against the superpowers, they now possess the political capabilities for administering their country.

Commentary on Pakistani View on Afghanistan

*LD0402152689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1055 GMT 4 Feb 89*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, as two neighboring countries, share many years of common historical, cultural, and religious heritage, and continue to strengthen their good relations. This has strategic importance and has benefited from substantial growth, particularly in the years following the Islamic revolution.

It is expected that under the new leadership in Islamabad, relations between the Iran and Pakistan will increase. In this connection, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of Islamic Iran, who has just ended a

3-day visit to Pakistan, clearly defined the future of relations between the two countries, saying that there are good opportunities to expand mutual cooperation. [passage omitted]

Insofar as questions related to the situation in Afghanistan were significant in the talks held between Dr Velayati and Pakistani officials, political observers hope that with the cooperation between the two countries a speedy solution to the Afghanistan problem will reach the implementation stage. In this connection, the foreign ministers of the two countries discussed issues concerning Afghanistan in their talks in Islamabad last week. They debated this in detail and declared their support for an independent, nonaligned, and Islamic government in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Without doubt, the future government of Afghanistan should be acceptable to the majority of the people, who have struggled against their enemies selflessly and devotedly over the course of many long years. To quote Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. There is no room in Afghanistan for the influence of hegemonistic powers; the people of that country have fought for their Islamic objectives and they want to be independent.

It is due to these common viewpoints that political observers consider the agreements and existing collaboration between Tehran and Islamabad for the achievement of a peaceful solution to the future of Afghanistan very positive and beneficial. This is while the active and collaborative role of Iran and Pakistan in proximity to the viewpoints of the seven- and eight-party coalitions of Afghan mujahidin, has come under a U.S. propaganda attack.

Those who, by their departure from Kabul in the last days of Afghanistan's occupation, prepared the ground for the emergence of uncontrollable aggression by the ringleaders of the Kabul regime, now expect that by sowing discord and disunity in the ranks of the Afghan mujahidin, they may be able, by continuing the war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, to attain what they could not achieve by (?serving) the occupiers.

Apart from political (?support) extended to the mujahidin and the people, Iran and Pakistan hope that, following the departure of Soviet troops from Afghan territory, the Afghan mujahidin will be able to cooperate with each other regarding their country's future in order to overcome existing problems. To this end, recent meetings between the mujahidin based in Iran and Pakistan have prepared positive grounds for their future cooperation.

Through their unstinting and all-round support for the mujahidin and the Muslim people of Afghanistan during the 10 difficult years of struggle—support that included hosting more than 5 million Afghan refugees—Iran and Pakistan have proved they respect the Afghan people's demands for safeguarding the Islamic identity of their country.

The West, and particularly the United States, are currently trying to control the Afghan mujahidin's 10-year struggle and are trying to substitute a nationalistic identity for an Islamic identity in Afghanistan. Thus, when Iran and Pakistan emphasize Afghanistan's distinct Islamic identity, the West calls this emphasis—which is compatible with the demands of the mujahidin and the Afghan people—interference in the affairs of Afghanistan.

As a consequence, they try to stir things up with a great hue and cry. There is no doubt that the Afghan mujahidin consider the role of former Afghan King Muhammad Zahir Shah to be similar to the one played by the present leaders of the Kabul regime in the process of their country's occupation. [passage omitted]

For this reason, those affiliated with either the East or West, and particularly those affiliated with the United States—no matter which group they belong to—are the object of the oppressed Afghan people's everlasting wrath and anger.

With regard to Dr Velayati's recent trip to Pakistan, political observers comment that the trip will (?contribute to greater collaboration by the seven-party mujahidin coalition in Pakistan with their brothers in Iran.) Noting the imminent withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, these same observers believe it is natural for Afghanistan's two neighbors to adopt a united position alongside their Afghan brothers, just as they have done in the past. It is also natural that in the future as well they should participate in reconstruction Afghanistan and in establishing the Islamic government desired by the various groups in the Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

Construction Ministry Signs Agreement With UNIDO
LD0802094289 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT
8 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—A note of understanding between United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and Iran's Construction Jihad Ministry was signed here Tuesday [7 February].

UNIDO's Deputy Director General Weise Bach on behalf of the organisation and Deputy Construction Jihad Minister Rasul Lahijanani on behalf of Iran signed the note.

Construction Jihad's Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh in talks with UNIDO's officials here explained Iran's proposals on rural industry, sea-food, date, paper, ceramics and boat-building projects. The proposals were assessed as interesting by UNIDO's experts. The two sides also discussed ways to improve cooperation in future.

Weise Bach, who is currently here on the invitation of Construction Jihad Ministry to attend the ten-day dawn ceremonies, in a separate meeting with Industry Minister

Gholamreza Shafe'i Tuesday explained the ways of possible industrial cooperation between UNIDO and Iran specially in the field of industrial reconstruction by exploiting the experiences achieved in the Third World countries.

Shafe'i called on Bach to undertake efforts, using his influence on the international level, to convince giant industrial enterprises to reduce their pressures on Third World countries.

Weekly on 'Supplement' to Constitution
WA0802171589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES
International Weekly in English
8 Dec 88 p 8

[Unattributed editorial]

[Text] The need for convening the Assembly of Experts to partly review the Constitution seems to merit being treated as a serious post-war issue.

Deficiencies now felt in the Constitution are said to stem from some inconsistencies in relations between the executive power and other political organs, as well as the existence of numerous decisionmaking bodies.

Ayatollah Meshkini, head of the Assembly of Experts, the highest organ in the country's political echelon, and President Khamene'i have been among the first high-ranking officials to raise the question of a partial review of the Constitution.

The need for such review was even more felt following Imam Khomeyni's reply to a letter sent to him by a large group of Majles Deputies criticizing the existence of various decisionmaking bodies, including the High Council for Determining on Matters of Expediency [Expediency Discernment Council]. In reply to this letter, the Imam stressed the observance of the Constitution's terms and laws which, at times, had to be by-passed because of war conditions.

Meanwhile, in his Friday prayer address in Qom, Ayatollah Meshkini remarked that the time is ripe to review the Constitution, now that the war is over. On the other hand, President Khamene'i too, joined by Mohammad Yazdi, a member of the Constitution Guardian Council, has in one way or another said the Constitution is vague in some areas.

In part of his address last Friday, President Khamene'i, while stressing the framework of the Constitution as the nation's pivotal law, commented that it falls short of putting forth a clear-cut policy-making body. At the same time, he cautioned that if the Constitution is disrupted, the administration of the country will be jeopardized.

Other leading personalities such as Ayatollah Montazeri and Majles Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani have still kept silent on the issue. Nevertheless, the latter seems to favor the idea of adding a supplement to the Constitution. The reason, according to some observers, is that the proposal for integrating premiership in the Presidency in the forthcoming presidential elections seems to have Hashemi-Rafsanjani's support. The proposal has been sent to the Assembly of Experts for final ratification. If so, this issue actually underlines the need to add a supplement to the Constitution.

Foundation for Oppressed Renamed for 'Disabled'
NC0602070189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi has issued a press communique stating that, with the agreement of the rule of the jurisconsult and expressing gratitude for the efforts of the disabled of the Islamic revolution, the name of the Foundation for the Oppressed has been changed to the Foundation for the Affairs of the Disabled (Bonyad-e Omur-e Janbazan).

The prime minister pointed out that the disabled of the Islamic revolution are the dearest figures of this Islamic homeland and that the care of their affairs is an important duty for each and every one of us. He stated: As a gesture of gratitude for the efforts of the disabled of the Islamic revolution, the officials involved in the Foundation for the Oppressed, who have the heaviest duty on their shoulders, have proposed that the name of this foundation be changed to the Foundation for the Affairs of the Disabled. In view of the agreement with the rule of the jurisconsult, who has always emphasized the need to serve the disabled, the name of the Foundation for the Oppressed is changed to the Foundation for the Affairs of the Disabled.

Another part of this communique expresses gratitude and praise for the services which the officials in charge of the Foundation for the Oppressed rendered to the most deprived strata of the nation during the past decade. The communique states that all the potentials of these managers will be used in the best way possible in the economic sector of the Foundation for the Affairs of the Disabled to advance and improve the material and moral life of the disabled.

Religious Minorities Congress Issues Resolution
LD0702091389 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—The two-day congress on minorities ended here Monday [6 February] evening by issuing an 11-point resolution which condemned Zionist aggression against holy places in occupied Palestine and pledged support for oppressed nations of Palestine and Lebanon.

The congress held on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran was inaugurated at Tehran's Esteghlal Hotel Sunday with a speech by Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi. It was attended by representatives of the Iranian Jews, Zoroastrians, and Christians as well as other personalities.

The resolution signed by the religious leaders of the minorities on behalf of their constituency stated that Zionists have trampled upon all monotheistic and human values and have violated sanctity of holy places of Muslims, Jews and the Christians alike.

It further appealed to world people to condemn the Zionist aggression and harassment of the Palestinian people.

The resolution stated that the religious minorities in Iran are an indispensable part of the Iranian nation who follow common goals.

It added that the key to existence and unity of the religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran lies in close ties with the leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, who has said "Iran belongs to all, all follow monotheism, all form a single nation."

The resolution deplored plots of imperialism and Zionist concerning rights of minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It said, "religious minorities in Iran perform their religious rites in complete freedom and security. Political, social and individual rights of the minorities are respected within the provisions of the constitutional law and religious education is part of the educational programs in minority schools."

Addressing the closing session of the congress, Tehran Deputy in Majlis Hojjat ol-Eslam Amid Zanjani said that ever since Islam came into existence it has respected rights of the minorities. Therefore, religious minorities are fully respected in Islam and this is nothing new in the Islamic Republic of Iran, he told the congress.

The hojjat ol-islam added that under Islam there is no term such as 'minority' or 'alien'. Instead of these two terms, "people of the book" is the terminology used in Islam, which is more appropriate and has religious connotation. The hojjat ol-islam concluded that under Islam people of the book enjoy special privileges.

Several other speakers including representatives of the minorities and university professors addressed the congress on rights of the minorities in Islam.

Revolution Guards Missile Industry Examined
LD0402171589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0140 GMT 4 Feb 88

[Unidentified correspondent's report from the "Narrative of Resistance" program]

[Excerpts] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] Ministry is among those that have taken some fundamental steps toward self-sufficiency. It has carried out extensive activities in the area of repair and the manufacture and construction of arms and weapons needed for the war.

Among the valuable services rendered by this ministry is the growth of the self-sufficiency industries: aviation; vehicles; (?optics); the maritime, missile, and armaments industries; special [vizheh] industries; the chemical, biological, and radioactive industries; weapons manufacture; and the communications equipment and technical back-up industries are among those that experienced substantial growth during the holy defense. In this part of the program, we will hear a report prepared by the IRGC missile industries.

[Correspondent] There has been an extraordinary degree of progress in the missile field, which is one part of [word indistinct] the IRGC Ministry to the extent that a Japanese magazine quoted Iran as being second in Asia in terms of missile power. Of course, this is not a very [word indistinct]. At present, all sorts of rockets [raket] are being manufactured in this country, they can (?manufacture) rockets that can be (?launched) against both unguided and guided missiles, and can manufacture a type that strengthens our offensive capability, such as the antitank, ground-to-air, ground-to-ground varieties.

The basic work for these types has begun. Some of this work has achieved definite results, which will be shown, God willing. Then the martyr-nurturing people will be able to see for themselves the ultimate achievements reached in the rocket field and how important these achievements are.

In general, the missiles (?on which work has) begun are those in which the developed countries of the world and the superpowers invest large amounts of money and technology. These are missiles they have worked on for years before reaching their objectives. [passage omitted with indistinct portions]

Thus, we are compelled to be in a position to give the necessary attention and care (?to the work) on these missiles so that what we manufacture and build is fully competitive with what they manufacture, and can even replace theirs, if possible. So, from the point of view of quality, they are exactly like the others. We cannot (?build) a better version, but in the future—taking note of the ideas that they come across in the course of building these missiles and [words indistinct]—we should be improving quality.

An important point to consider is that fortunately, we are rich in our society from the point of view of the variety of expertise. These specializations and kinds of expertise must be brought together and not scattered. If this is done, we should be able to make more sophisticated missiles, both from the standpoint of accuracy and destructive capacity. [passage omitted with indistinct portions]

Revolution Guards Manufacture First Hovercraft
NC0602073489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Iran's first hovercraft built by the IRGC's self-sufficiency industries was launched yesterday at a ceremony at Lake Maharlou in Shiraz and sailed along its coast.

The Central News Unit reports that this hovercraft, which cost 15 million rials to build, has been named "Yunos-1" and is 840 cm long and 440 cm wide. It weighs 3 tonnes and can carry 1 tonne of load and 12 passengers. The report states that all the parts for this hovercraft, which has a maximum speed of 60 km per hour, were designed and manufactured by the experts and engineers of the IRGC's self-sufficiency industries' marine group.

119 Drug Traffickers Arrested in Provinces
LD0702113289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Islamic Revolution Committee guards in Khorasan, Zanjan, Lorestan, Baluchestan va Sistan, Yazd, and Gilan Province arrested 119 drug traffickers during the past 24 hours.

A spokesman for the public relations office of the Islamic Revolution Committee announced the above news and said: Two pairs of military binoculars, 15.283 kg of narcotics, some weapons, 4 vehicles, and some cash were seized from the arrested individuals. After completing files on the accused they were handed over to the relevant authorities along with the seized items.

The spokesman also reported that during the past 48 hours more than 100 drug addicts presented themselves to various Islamic revolution committees.

New Radio, TV Relay Stations Operational
LD0602105489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0730 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Two television relay stations, in the (Oliya') region of Hamadan, were put into operation through the efforts of the technicians of the television and FM transmitters repair and maintenance unit of the Voice and Vision of Hamadan.

According to the Central News Unit, with the installation and functioning of these relay stations, each of which has a 50 watt [as heard] capacity, the residents of

the villages adjacent to the sugar refinery, the martyr Nozheh air garrison of Hamadan, and the town of Razan will be able to benefit from the programs of the first network on Channel 10 and of the second network on Channel 6.

In addition, the use of the new Pavdana television relay station, with a 50 watt [as heard] capacity, began in Zarand in order to improve the quality of the first and second Voice and Vision networks' coverage. With the use of that station, the residents of Zarand, Pavdana, and surrounding villages will be able to benefit from good quality reception of the vision's first network on Channel 6 and the second network on Channel 10.

Through the efforts of the television and FM transmitters repair and maintenance unit of Zahedan, the town of Khash, too, can receive the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's second network.

In addition, the FM radio transmitters of Maragheh and Azarshahr have been put into operation. According to the Central News Unit, with the use of Azarshahr's FM transmitters, with a 1 kilowatt capacity, the regions of Azarshahr, Bonab, Khosroshahr, Gavgan, (Ajafshir), Miyandoab, and Malekan, and with the FM radio transmitter of Maragheh, with a 50 watt capacity, the town of Maragheh and its environs can receive the local programs of the Tabriz center.

Abdanan Television Transmitter Rebuilt
LD0702113389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The reconstruction of Abdanan's television transmitter, which had been severely damaged during the course of the imposed war, has been completed. The station was reopened today in the presence of Mr Hashemi, the director-general of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision [IRIVV].

The technical deputy of the IRIVV told the Central News Unit's correspondent that the Abdanan television station, which has been rebuilt at a cost of 100 million rials—consisting of foreign exchange and rials—will provisionally broadcast the programs of the television's first network. We hope that by rebuilding the station, we may be able to reinstall the technical equipment required to transmit UHF, VHF, and four FM channels. He added that with this station, parts of Lorestan, Khuzestan, and Ilam Provinces will hopefully come under the cover of television's first network.

Khorramabad Radio, TV Facility Operational
LD0702175589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The radio and television production center at Khorramabad was declared operational during a ceremony attended by the director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, several Majlis deputies, and

a number of local officials. Mr. Hashemi, director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, said in an interview with the Central News Unit:

The Khorramabad production and distribution center can broadcast 6 hours of good quality radio programs per day and 2 hours of television programs per week. This center, which has become operational with a credit allocation of 700 million rials, has two radio studios and one television studio, and can now fill the cultural needs of Lorestan Province.

Pakistan

Kabul Allegation on Downing of Plane Rejected *BK0802021889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu* 0200 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the allegation leveled by the Kabul regime that Pakistan Air Force planes shot down an Afghan transport plane, which lost its bearings and entered Pakistan's airspace, on the 31st of last month while it was overflying Bannu.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was told in Islamabad that the allegation was investigated and found to be totally baseless. The Afghan aircraft, which violated Pakistan's airspace, did not clash with any aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force, nor was it downed.

In fact, Bannu Airport was lighted to enable it to land. However, the Afghan aircraft ignored it and eventually crashed northeast of Bannu when it ran out of fuel.

Australian Prime Minister Continues Visit

Meets With Bhutto on Issues *BK0702155489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu* 1500 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Formal talks were held between Pakistan and Australia in Rawalpindi today to improve bilateral relations in various fields. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her Australian counterpart, Bob Hawke, led the delegations of their respective countries.

At the meeting, the two sides decided to increase bilateral cooperation. Australia has agreed to provide Pakistan with \$15 million over 3 years, beginning with the next fiscal year. In addition, Australia will set up a trade office in Pakistan to encourage further exports from Pakistan and to reduce the trade gap. It was decided that a group of Australian businessmen will come to Pakistan to explore the possibilities of economic cooperation.

Earlier, the two sides reviewed the global situation, including the latest developments in Afghanistan and Cambodia. The two prime ministers reaffirmed their resolve to check nuclear proliferation.

Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes and it can accept any nondiscriminatory safeguard in this regard. She also informed the Australian prime minister of the positive development in Pakistan-India relations after her talks with the Indian prime minister at the SAARC summit conference.

The Australian prime minister briefed Benazir Bhutto on the progress made toward the settlement of the Cambodian problem and his talks with Thai leaders before his arrival in Pakistan.

At the talks, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assisted by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; Food and Agriculture Minister Rao Sikandar Iqbal; Commerce Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat; Retired Major General Imtiaz Ali, the defense adviser; Iqbal Akhund, foreign affairs and national security adviser; the foreign secretary; and other senior officials. The Australian prime minister was assisted by his senior officials.

Ishaq Khan Hosts Luncheon *BK0702161489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu* 1500 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke have reaffirmed the commitment of their respective countries to global peace and nuclear nonproliferation.

They expressed the hope that the existing cordial and friendly relations between Pakistan and Australia will become stronger. These views were expressed by the two leaders at a luncheon which the president hosted in Islamabad in honor of the Australian prime minister and his wife.

In his speech, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan noted considerable cooperation between the two countries in various fields, particularly sports. Paying tribute to Bob Hawke, the president said: Your reelection as prime minister for the third time reflects the great confidence the Australian people have in you.

The Australian prime minister said Australia possesses expertise in many areas, including agriculture, mining, and livestock development, and Pakistan and Australia can establish mutually beneficial cooperation in these fields.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, National Assembly Speaker Malik Mairaj Khalid, and Justice Mohammad Haleem, chief justice of the Supreme Court, also attended the luncheon.

Sri Lanka

President Says IPKF Not Needed, Asked To Leave *BK0802102089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT* 8 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, Feb 8 (AFP)—The Indian military presence in Sri Lanka is no longer necessary and the Indian peacekeeping force (IPKF) here has been asked to leave, President Ranasinghe Premadasa was quoted as saying Wednesday [8 February] by a state-owned newspaper here.

"I told the Indian Government that the IPKF's job is now over, that they can go back. The pullout is methodically (being) done," the DAILY NEWS quoted Mr. Premadasa as telling a public rally in northern Jaffna town.

(The Indian Government declined to comment Wednesday on the Sri Lankan president's reported statement. "I have no comment on that," an External Affairs Ministry spokesman in New Delhi said.

("All that we know is that one battalion of the IPKF (Indian Peacekeeping Force) will leave (Sri Lanka) today and another a little later," the New Delhi official said.)

Indian officials here said a battalion—about 1,500 troops—was due to leave from the island republic's northernmost port of Kankesanthurai, with another battalion due to withdraw within two weeks.

The government Wednesday flew a group of local reporters to witness the withdrawal, which comes a week before parliamentary general elections here. [passage omitted]

The LTTE, in a statement released here Wednesday, said it had asked for a U.N. presence in Sri Lanka and called for a total withdrawal of Indian troops from the island's Tamil regions.

"The LTTE leadership has suggested that the United Nations could play a positive and constructive role in establishing peace in the Tamil homeland," said the statement issued by the LTTE's London office and received here.

It said Mr. Prabhakaran [LTTE leader] had petitioned the U.N. Human Rights Commission about the "grave and dangerous situation" in Sri Lanka resulting from what it called "continuous occupation, repression and terror" by the Indian Army.

The LTTE has made similar appeals in the past to the United Nations and other international organisations.